

## Algerian militant leader killed

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerian authorities dealt a major blow to extremists this weekend by killing one of their most radical leaders, Jaafar Al Agha, and nine of his followers. Agha, 29, who heads the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), and his followers were killed Saturday as they were holding a meeting in a house on the outskirts of Algiers, security officials said Sunday. They said the fundamentalist leader, who adopted a nom de guerre but whose real name was Mourad Si Ahmad, and his men were shot down after they opened fire on police officers who had surrounded the house. The deaths came amid a new outbreak of violence here in the last two weeks, marked by the killing of 12 security officers, 14 civilians, and 60 fundamentalists. Various schools, government buildings and public places have also been set on fire. Agha's death followed last Wednesday's killing by security forces of another fundamentalist leader, Toufik Hattab, who was charged with taking part in the assassination of former Prime Minister Kasbi Merbah and the former head of Algerian television, Mustapha Abada.

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## King, Assad discuss peace talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad discussed the Hebron mosque massacre by telephone and its implications for the Middle East peace process, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said Sunday. The two leaders swapped views on Saturday night on "the brutal aggression against Palestinian worshippers in Hebron" and "the extent of Israel's seriousness" regarding the peace process, officials said. Jordan and Syria have strongly condemned the killing of dozens of Palestinians at a mosque in Hebron on Friday. Damascus said Israel bore direct or indirect responsibility for the attack. Petra, said King Hussein made the telephone call to President Assad, during which the two leaders exchanged "views on regional and international issues of mutual concern" and "discussed the latest developments in the region and the massacre of Palestinian worshippers in the Ibrahimi mosque in Hebron Friday morning."

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## Bomb blast in Lebanon church claims 9 lives

### Lebanese leaders accuse Israel of masterminding attack to divert attention from Hebron massacre

JOUNIEH, Lebanon (Agencies) — A bomb exploded in front of the altar as worshippers took communion in a crowded Maronite Catholic church Sunday, killing at least nine people and injuring more than 30, police and witnesses said.

Survivors said pools of blood covered the floor of the Notre Dame de la Delivrance Church, among the biggest churches in this port city and surrounding towns north of Beirut that form the Christian heartland.

The bombing marked a further setback in efforts by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's government to enforce law and order after the 1975-1990 civil war.

An AP reporter, who was in the congregation, saw the bomb go off as hundreds of worshippers lined up before the altar table to take communion at the morning mass.

People screamed as icons fell off the wall, benches broke into pieces, and pages from shredded Bibles fluttered through the hall. A television

station showed Red Cross workers evacuating bodies covered with blood-stained blankets.

A four-year-old girl was among the dead. The priest who led prayers, Father Antoine Sfeir, was among the wounded.

Lebanese troops sealed off the area as hundreds of onlookers jammed the nearby coastal highway to watch rescue operations. Christian radios and television stations interrupted programming to flash reports of the blast.

Interior Minister Bishara Merhej told reporters on the scene that four bombs planted in the church organ were dismantled after the blast.

"This saved the congregation from an even worse massacre," said Mr. Merhej, a Greek Orthodox Christian. Police investigators said the bomb that exploded consisted of a series of charges hidden near the front pew.

Lebanon's police chief, Brigadier General Rafik Hassan,

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## King: Church bomber, mosque killer had same evil mind

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein denounced a bombing that killed nine worshippers Sunday in a Lebanese church, saying the bomber had the same evil mind as the Jewish settler who killed at least 60 worshippers at a Hebron mosque.

The King sent a telegram to Lebanese President Elias Hrawi to convey his "deep sorrow" and anger over the bombing, the Jordanian news agency, Petra, reported.

The worshippers were "killed by a criminal mind whose evil intentions were not different from the one who perpetrated the Hebron massacre," the King said.

The King also phoned President Hrawi to offer condolences.

U.S. condemnation  
U.S. President Bill Clinton cal-

led the deadly explosion in Lebanese church "an outrage against faith and humanity," and said the perpetrators hope to scuttle plans for peace in the region.

Mr. Clinton drew a connection between the bombing and the Hebron massacre.

"Just as Friday's massacre in a Hebron mosque was aimed at the peace process, this bomb attack seems clearly aimed at Lebanon's reconciliation process," Mr. Clinton said in a statement from the White House. "The extremists have a common purpose: To promote division, strife and war, they must and will not be allowed to succeed."

"The killing of people at prayer is an outrage against faith and humanity," Mr. Clinton said. "I call on men and women of all faiths to unite in opposition to the forces of dark hatred."



SPREADING PROTESTS: An Arab beats up a policeman in Nazareth with his own stick as another holds his gun after police entered the residence of the mayor of the city during protests that

erupted Saturday (see story below) following Friday's massacre of more than 60 Palestinians at a Hebron mosque (AFP photo)

## Israel orders 'crackdown' on settlers; Arafat dismisses move

Combined agency dispatches

THE PALESTINE Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Sunday Israel had not done enough to curb militant Jewish settlers after the Hebron mosque massacre. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat dismissed measures announced on Sunday as empty and hollow.

The PLO, which received a formal invitation from the United States on Saturday to attend Washington talks with Israel, said the Jewish state must do more to enable peace talks to continue.

"The Israeli government's

decisions were empty, hollow and lack the basis to deal with such a grave incident (the Hebron massacre) that took place two days ago," Mr. Arafat said.

"We were not expecting better than this because the Israeli government did not tackle the issue of Israeli army involvement nor provided the basis of international protection for the Palestinian people, the issues that are very essential for a successful end of the peace process," he added.

Israel, reacting to world outrage at Friday's Hebron massacre of at least 60 Palestinians

by a Jewish settler, said it would disarm, detain or restrict the movement of extremist settlers in the occupied territories.

It would also free 800 to 1,000 Palestinian prisoners in an effort to calm Arab anger and save its stalled peace talks with the PLO.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, announcing the "unprecedented" Israeli actions, said authorities were studying the legal position on banning extremist factions.

The Palestinians have been demanding the removal of the 120,000 settlers in the occupied

West Bank and Gaza Strip. Earlier, the army sealed off the occupied zones with a population of one million Palestinians for an indefinite period.

The military said the operation launched late Saturday was to prevent Arab attacks in Israel and anti-Arab attacks by Israelis. But it blocked 80,000 Palestinians from their jobs in the Jewish state.

Mr. Sarid said the 14-man cabinet voted unanimously that some extremists "will be forced to disarm."

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## 'Israeli troops opened fire outside mosque'

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Three Israeli soldiers fired in the air at the Tomb of the Patriarchs but it was a lone settler who carried out the Hebron mosque massacre, according to the first army report revealed Sunday.

Killer Baruch Goldstein used four or five clips on his Gail automatic rifle and fired 118 bullets inside the Ibrahimi Mosque, Israel Radio quoted the report as saying.

According to ballistics experts all the worshippers were killed by the same weapon. The report did not give a death toll, but doctors said that at least 60 were slain in the mosque. Israel Radio put the figure at 52 on Sunday.

Three soldiers were inside the tomb complex and two others outside when the shooting began, said the report made by an unnamed army officer on behalf of the military command for the central region, which covers the West Bank.

The report said: Three border policemen arrived for duty 20 minutes late, five minutes

after the carnage. An army major in charge was asleep in a nearby military facility as was his deputy.

Goldstein arrived dressed in his army major's uniform between 5:15 a.m. and 5:20 a.m. (0315 and 0320 GMT).

He told one of the soldiers on duty that he was doing reserve service and walked through into the prayer hall with bullet clips in his pocket.

A soldier back at the entrance heard shooting but could not get through the crowd pouring out, carrying dead and wounded, the report said.

He tried to get in through other doors, but failed.

After several minutes, he finally managed to work his way into the hall where the massacre took place and Goldstein was already dead.

Two other soldiers at the western gate, outside the mosque, did not realise what had happened and when they saw Palestinians running away they fired seven rounds in the roof of the tomb.

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## U.S. objection holds up U.N. move on massacre

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The United States and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) failed to agree Saturday night on the wording of a Security Council resolution condemning the mosque massacre in the occupied West Bank.

The Security Council, which had planned to adopt a resolution of condemnation, adjourned without setting a new date for a meeting.

Western and Middle Eastern diplomats said the problems involved two issues: Calls for temporary international protection of Palestinians — rejected by Israel — and the reference to Jerusalem as an occupied territory.

Israeli officials have blamed the massacre Friday in Hebron on a lone Jewish settler bent on sabotaging the recent peace agreement between Israel and the PLO. But the PLO says more than one gunman was involved and blames the Israeli government for not providing adequate security.

The PLO wants Israel to

disarm the Jewish settlers. It reminded U.N. members that the Security Council for years has considered Israel's occupation of and settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip illegal.

The diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Palestinians refused to delete references in a draft resolution to Jerusalem as an occupied territory and to a possible deployment of foreign peacekeepers to protect Palestinians.

A French draft resolution urges measures to guarantee the safety and protection of Palestinian civilians in the occupied Palestinian territories, "including temporary international or foreign presence."

But Western diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that calls for an international military presence would be rejected, since it is opposed by at least two of the five countries with veto power: the United States and Britain.

## Jordan has no ambitions in W. Bank

### King reminds deputies of urgent but neglected problems, urges them to shoulder responsibilities

AMMAN (J.T.) — In an address to the deputies Saturday, His Majesty King Hussein stressed that Jordan had no "ambitions or aims" in the Israeli-occupied territories and called on the Lower House of Parliament to rise to its responsibilities in tackling and debating public issues.

In his address, whose full text was released after the Jordan Times' press time late in the evening, the King commented on calls made by some deputies to withdraw from the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations and on the way Parliament handled or ignored issues of interest to Jordan and the public.

The following are major excerpts from the King's speech at the iftar, which, other than the deputies, was attended by His Royal High-

ness Crown Prince Hassan, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, Prince Talal Ben Mohammad and Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the King's advisors.

"I found it fit after this period in the life of the Lower House of Parliament and its shouldering of its responsibilities... to meet my brothers and to talk about some of the problems facing us in a brotherly manner within the framework of the family to which we belong and out of our keenness to perform our duty in the best manner so as to have a clear conscience..."

"When we planned this meeting in this holy month and this blessed evening, we never imagined that it would



follow one of the ugliest crimes the world witnessed, a crime that was committed at yesterday's dawn in the holy Ibrahimi Mosque where a

large number of our brothers, family and beloved ones were killed while many others were wounded. Those who were killed are destined to join other martyrs in heaven... and who amongst us does not wish to die for God's sake?

"We support every mother or father who lost a martyr. We back every brother who lost his brother. We are with every human being in Hebron, with the wounded, with our family. We are with them..."

"We have no ambitions, aims or designs but to see the (Palestinian) people sovereign masters on their land and on their national soil."

"In view of what happened we will do what we can to

(Continued on page 5)

## Soldiers kill bedouin, first Arab-Israeli to die in revolt

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Police shot dead a 22-year-old Bedouin on Sunday, his relatives said, the first Israeli-Arab to be killed by Israeli bullets since the intifada erupted six years ago.

Another 10 bedouins were injured, three seriously, while 15 were arrested as hundreds protested against Friday's killing by a Jewish settler of at least 60 Muslims in a Hebron mosque, Palestinian sources said.

Seven policemen were injured by rocks thrown by the demonstrators at Rahat in the desert of southern Israel.

The dead man, whose full name was not released, died en route to hospital. Witnesses said police opened fire with bullets first

and only later used tear-gas to disperse the angry crowd.

Bedouins serve in the Israeli army.

In Hebron, hundreds of Palestinian youths, ignoring a curfew and a visit by Israel's president, spilled into the streets to protest against Friday's mosque massacre.

The army shot and wounded 12 of them.

A delegation of Israeli Arab politicians visited and led a march to protest at the slaughter by Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein.

The massacre sparked the worst day of violence in Israel's 27-year occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Witnesses said about 2,000

(Continued on page 5)

## Cairo police battle massacre protesters

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian police fired tear-gas to contain a demonstration Sunday by Cairo University students outraged by the massacre at a West Bank mosque. Dozens of people were hurt, witnesses said.

Protesters also took to the streets of Amman, Baghdad and Tripoli at the weekend to demand revenge for the massacre, an end to the Middle East peace talks and the downfall of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The clashes in the Egyptian capital broke out after police fired tear-gas to prevent the students from leaving Cairo University, prompting the protesters to hit back with stones.

A pamphlet distributed by Muslim fundamentalist students here denounced Friday's

massacre of at least 60 worshippers by a Jewish settler at a mosque in the West Bank town of Hebron.

Some 4,000 students also demonstrated peacefully at Ain Shams University in northern Cairo.

Almost 10,000 students demonstrated at Cairo University on Saturday.

Egypt meanwhile tightened security in Cairo around the Israeli embassy, synagogues and diplomats' homes for fear of attacks to avenge Friday's mosque massacre.

Security sources and witnesses said police erected more roadblocks on streets leading to the Israeli embassy. The number of policemen was increased around the Israeli

## House rejects move to allow eviction of tenants

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Sunday reaffirmed the tenant's legal right to remain in their rented properties after leases expire despite opposition from many deputies who said contracts should govern the relationship between tenants and landlords.

The majority of lawmakers voted against amending article five item (a) of a draft temporary tenancy law which stipulates that tenants can remain in their rented properties despite time limits agreed upon in the lease.

The vote came at the end of a heated debate that extended over two sessions in which deputies in favour of the article warned that amending it could cause social upheavals.

"Amending the article (allowing the eviction of tenants at the end of the lease) would cause a social upheaval that can threaten our security and stability," said Deputy Abdul Karim Al Dughmi, rapporteur of the judiciary committee which recommended the house approve article five as presented by the government.

Minister of State for Parliamentary and Legal Affairs Khaled Al Zoubi said that this

article of the draft law, which has been in effect as a temporary law since 1982, "created some sort of stability and is one of the legal items that create a balance between tenants and landlords."

The House voted down over 10 bids to amend the draft law — ranging from cancelling it completely to demands for differentiating between residential and commercial properties.

Deputy Ali Abu Ragheb said the draft legislation should not be applied to properties rented for commercial reasons, demanding that landlords be able to retain such properties at the end of the leases.

Calling for a balanced legislation that would guarantee the rights of tenants and landlords, Mr. Abul Ragheb pointed out that the government had not applied its right to raise rents in correspondence with inflation since 1989.

But Deputy Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh argued that tenants should not be evicted from properties they rent for commercial purposes at the end of the lease because businesses would suffer from such a legislation.

He argued that it takes years for a business to develop a reputation and tenants invest

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## Arab Bank donates JD 100,000 to families of Hebron martyrs

Mr. Khalid Shoman, deputy chairman of the Arab Bank, told news agencies today that Arab Bank has decided to donate JD 100,000 to the families of the Palestinians killed by the Israelis in Friday's massacre at the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

This was seen as a determined gesture by the Jordanians to come to the aid of their Palestinian brothers in the occupied territories whenever necessary.

هذه احدى النسخ



# PLO wants concessions from Israel before talks

By John West  
Reuter

## OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is under intense pressure to prove the worth of the peace process to Palestinians after the Hebron massacre and needs to wring concessions from Israel before returning to talks, Palestinian officials say.

But the Israeli government, while keen to resume talks, is showing every sign of standing firm against PLO demands for the disarming of Jewish settlers and international protection for Palestinians in the occupied territories.

"They (the Israelis) are killing the peace process. In order to reach the Palestinian people now and persuade them about negotiations, we need to show them big changes from Israel," said Faisal Al Hussein, PLO leader of the West Bank.

"What happened is absolutely outrageous. The outrage is that even with a massacre of its size people talk of business as usual," Nabil Shaath, head of the PLO negotiating team with Israel, told Reuters in Cairo. "We have to wait for measures by the United States, the United Nations and by Israel before resuming the peace talks."

"If the U.S. thinks we will go to Washington and do business as usual, succumbing to pressures and making concessions, it is mistaken," said another PLO official

who declined to be named.

PLO officials have issued a string of demands since a Jewish settler slaughtered at least 60 Palestinians praying in a mosque in Hebron on Friday, sparking the worst day of violence in Israel's 27-year occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli leaders condemned the massacre and dismissed it as the work of a lone lunatic. But PLO leaders see the carnage as symptomatic of Israel's prolonged military occupation and civilian settlement of Arab land seized in the 1967 war.

## ANALYSIS

They say they now need tangible benefits, such as disarming settlers or releasing Palestinian prisoners, to stand any chance of wooing outraged Palestinians back to the peace process.

"This has to be dealt with squarely by Israel, the U.N. and the U.S. The Israelis have to start with immediate disarmament of the settlers and immediate protection measures to protect the Palestinians," Dr. Shaath said.

As clashes broke out across the occupied territories on Saturday, killing two Palestinians and wounding at least 16, PLO leaders struggled to harmonise their response to an American invitation to resume peace talks in Washington.

Officials said the PLO has agreed in principle to accept President Bill Clinton's invitation to switch peace talks there. But they went on to insist that a final decision would depend on an emergency meeting in Tunis of PLO leaders and negotiators recalled from Washington, Paris and Cairo.

Palestinian officials said the next few days could see an intense diplomatic stand-off between the PLO and Israel.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government is concerned the PLO will try to use the Hebron massacre to introduce pre-conditions for resuming the peace talks.

"There is no doubt that at this stage we must save the negotiations," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told Israel Radio.

But he rejected an international presence in the territories. His deputy, Yossi Beilin, spurned the call for Israel to disarm settlers as a condition for resuming talks.

Some Palestinian leaders are not expected to arrive in Tunis until Sunday, meaning a PLO decision on the Clinton proposal might be delayed until Monday.

PLO credibility, already weakened by a two-month delay in implementing Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho as the first stage of the agreement they signed last year, is under siege both from Palestinian politicians and public opinion.



An Israeli Arab woman struggles with policemen during protests in Nazareth on Saturday (AFP photo)

## Clinton names Crocker ambassador to Kuwait

WASHINGTON (USIA) — U.S. President Bill Clinton has announced his intention to nominate Ryan Clark Crocker, the former ambassador to Lebanon, to be the next U.S. ambassador to Kuwait.

The following is the text of the White House announcement:

President Clinton today announced his intention to nominate Ryan Clark Crocker, a career member of the foreign service and formerly director of the Iraq-Kuwait task force, to be ambassador to Kuwait.

"Ryan Clark Crocker has led a distinguished career in

the foreign service and has a keen understanding of the issues facing Kuwait and the rest of the Middle East," the president said. "He is well-qualified to serve as our country's ambassador to Kuwait and I am pleased he has agreed to accept this new assignment."

Following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, Mr. Crocker became the director of the Iraq-Kuwait task force. In November of 1990, he was sworn in as ambassador to Lebanon and served in that position until August 1993.

## Israeli killer eulogised as hero

TEL AVIV (R) — "One million Arabs are not worth a Jewish fingernail," said a rabbi eulogising Baruch Goldstein, the Jewish settler who massacred at least 60 Palestinians in a Hebron mosque in the occupied West Bank on Friday.

Some 300 people turned up at a funeral home in Jerusalem to pay their last respects to Goldstein, the U.S.-born settler, who sprayed kneeling worshippers with gunfire before they beat him to death or he killed himself.

The attack shocked Arabs and Jews. But like-minded people at his funeral hailed him as something of a hero, sprinkled throughout the crowd were Israeli men shouldering Uzi submachine guns.

One man shouted: "We are all Goldstein." Others stoned a camera crew trying to film the event, calling them "Nazis" and shouting "slaughter the journalists."

Goldstein's body was taken by ambulance along the 40-kilometre stretch to a spot near Hebron for burial.

Jewish settlers said Goldstein would be buried in a temporary grave in the militant Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba where he lived.

Later, after tensions died down, he would be moved to the Jewish cemetery in Hebron.

The funeral took place on a day when Jews in Jerusalem traditionally wear costumes in celebration of the festival Purim. One boy wore a guerrilla suit to the funeral. A man in a black frock coat wore a black cowboy hat.

Goldstein, 42, was a physician born in Brooklyn who grew up in a religious home. In a reference to his medical training, another speaker said: "The people of Israel are sick... he showed us the cure."

In Israel, Goldstein became a member of murdered anti-Arab Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach Party.

Friends of Goldstein in Kiryat Arba, the Jewish settlement where he lived on the outskirts of Hebron, said he was acting alone in revenge for Arab attacks against Jews.

But Palestinians, holding wakes in the occupied West Bank city on Saturday for the victims, discounted the idea that the attack was the work of a lone gunman and insisted others had helped him.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Gunmen kill brother of top PLO officer

SIDON (R) — Unidentified gunmen killed the brother of a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) intelligence officer in the city of Sidon in South Lebanon on Saturday, security sources said. The attackers opened fire with sub-machine guns from a speeding car at Sodqi Farhoud, 50, and his son Adham, 22, as they drove in the port city of Sidon. Farhoud, the brother of the PLO's main Fatah group intelligence chief in the Sidon area, Lieutenant-Colonel Ali Farhoud, died instantly. His son was lightly wounded and was able to drive the car to a nearby hospital. Farhoud is also a junior Fatah intelligence officer and a school teacher. There was no immediate claim of responsibility from any group but the killing was believed to be part of an inter-Palestinian power struggle, the sources said.

### Kuwait: Rights report based on imagination

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti Interior Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al Hamoud Al Sabah was quoted on Sunday as saying that a critical report by Amnesty International was based on "sick imagination." Sheikh Ahmad... stressed that what the Amnesty International report said in this regard has no base of truth and that it has been knitted by sick imagination. Al Anbaa newspaper said. The London-based Amnesty International accused Kuwait on Thursday of committing "serious human rights violations" in the three years since the 1991 Gulf war ended the Iraqi occupation. Amnesty, reiterating accusations by other rights groups, said that following the withdrawal of Iraqi troops, Kuwaiti armed forces, police and armed civilians were responsible for widespread human rights violations. Kuwaiti officials say abuses stopped once the government-in-exile returned and reasserted control in April 1991.

### U.S. Navy warship rescues dolphin

BAHRAIN (AP) — A U.S. Navy warship has rescued a dolphin trapped in a fishing net in the Gulf waters. Navy Spokesman Bruce Cole said helicopters from the USS Callaghan, a guided missile destroyer, spotted the entrapped mammal while on routine missions over the Gulf Friday. A rescue boat was lowered and a mission was dispatched to free the dolphin. Commander Cole said the ship's commanding officer Cmdr. Joseph J. Natale, and the ship's first lieutenant, Ted Le Clair, led the successful rescue operation. "Once free, the dolphin — named Shamrock by Callaghan's crew — swam from sight, apparently grateful to the humans who came to the rescue," said Cmdr. Cole, reading from the ship's report. Callaghan is homeported in San Diego, California. It is in the Gulf as part of a U.S. Navy force enforcing a trade embargo against Iraq. It is due to return home in May.

### 8 Kurdish guerrillas die in clash

ARDAHAN (AP) — Eight Kurdish guerrillas died in a clash with Turkish troops in this northeastern city, the Anatolia agency said Saturday. A soldier also died in the fighting near the town of Gole on Friday, said the provincial governor, Yener Unluur. Kurdish guerrillas are from the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which has been fighting for autonomy in southeastern Turkey since 1984. More than 11,000 people have died since then.

### Iraq seeks \$20m to cover Haj expenses

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq is demanding the release of \$20 million of its U.N.-frozen assets to cover expenses of Iraqis planning to make the annual pilgrimage to Mecca this year, Baghdad newspapers reported on Sunday. The newspaper quoted Endowments and Religious Affairs Minister Abdul Munem Saleh, as saying that "Iraq has asked Islamic and non-Islamic countries to work for the release of \$20 million of its frozen assets to cover the expenses of this year's pilgrimage." He urged Islamic countries to exert pressure on the U.N. Sanctions Committee to unfreeze the money. Iraq's assets abroad were frozen shortly after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Under a quota system, Iraq is allowed to send 19,000 pilgrims to Mecca every year, but it has failed to meet the quota in the past three years. About 6,000 Iraqis made it to Mecca last year. The figure is certain to drop further this year as few Iraqis will be able to buy hard cash on the open market. The dinar hovered at about 250 to one dollar Sunday. The official rate is \$3.2 to the dinar.

### Lebanese vote in by-election

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese flocked to vote in the north on Sunday to elect a successor to a member of the country's 128-seat parliament who died last month. Officials said about 600,000 Lebanese were eligible to choose one of five candidates to succeed former minister Abdullah Al Rassi who died in January. Mr. Rassi was elected as a representative of northern Lebanon in the country's general elections in the summer of 1992. His son, Karim, appeared to be favourite after securing the backing of the various political groups and local leaders. Results are expected on Monday.

### Mujahedeen deny Iraq arms report

AMMAN (J.T.) — A spokesman for the Iranian opposition group, Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, has denied reports that Iraq gave four missile launching pads to the group. The spokesman said: "These ridiculous prevarications reflect the Iranian regime's extreme fear and concern toward the series of large scale military manoeuvres in recent weeks by the National Liberation Army of Iran." In February the group conducted two manoeuvres along the Iran-Iraq border region. Thousands of combatants, hundreds of tanks and armoured personnel carriers, Katyushas and field artillery as well as assault and transport helicopters piloted by women took part in the exercises.

## Rami and Gal — two victims of a long struggle

AL BIREH, Occupied West Bank — Rami Ghazawi loved pigeons and poetry. After school, he would sit in the brick coop he had built in his back yard, talk to the birds and let them pick kernels of grain from his hand.

"I'm like you, white pigeon, but I'd like to fly," he scribbled in the back of his physics notebook.

When Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed their historic agreement Sept. 13, the 10th grader and friends from the PLO youth movement Shabibeh drove to the West Bank town of Jericho, the future seat of autonomy, to cheer and raise Palestinian flags.

"He wanted to express his happiness over a new era," Rami's father, Izzat, a peace activist and novelist, said in his glass-enclosed study overlooking the pigeon coop.

Rami will not see the changes. He was killed by army gunfire on Nov. 16, three days after his 16th birthday.

At 7:50 a.m., soldiers approached Rami's high school on a boulder-strewn hill in Al Bireh, across a ravine from the Jewish settlement of Psagot.

Students threw stones at the soldiers, who fired into the school yard, hitting 16-year-old Ehab Tarifi in the leg, the elder Ghazawi said. Rami was shot in the stomach as he and two classmates carried Ehab. Rami died at Ramallah hospital later that day.

For most, Rami became just another statistic. He was one of 64 Palestinians who had been killed since the Israel-PLO pact was signed and one of 243 aged 16 or under killed by Israelis during the six-year uprising against the occupation.

But Rami's death touched a nerve.

"I want to embrace you and sit and cry with you," Israeli author David Grossman wrote Rami's father. "What a dreadful place it is that we live in. A child at the peak of his blossom is shot in his school yard. As an Israeli, I'm ashamed today."

Grossman knew Ghazawi from a circle of Israeli and Palestinian authors who would meet occasionally to talk about literature and the conflict.

Grossman and two other Israeli authors joined a petition by Ghazawi, asking Israel's supreme court to order military police to speed the investigation of Rami's death, including allegations that soldiers had delayed Rami's evacuation to the hospital.

The army acknowledged that investigators had questioned only soldiers. One Palestinian approached by military police refused to talk, the army said.

Rami was 12 when his father was jailed in February 1989 as one of the intellectuals behind the uprising. For the next 27 months, Rami often visited him at Ashkelon prison.

There, the elder Ghazawi began writing "Point of Departure," a novel about the search for the human side of the enemy, and often read excerpts to Rami.

"I wanted to say, 'let's go for peace,'" said Ghazawi, who wore a black-and-white checked scarf, a symbol of Palestinian nationalism, draped over his brown suede jacket.

Ghazawi now teaches English literature at the Bir Zeit University in the West Bank. He said his son's death has not changed his convictions: "I still believe that peace is our fate."

By Karin Laub  
The Associated Press

SUCH DRAMATIC acts of violence as the massacre at the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron seize the world's attention, but killing is nothing new in the Israeli-occupied territories and South Lebanon.

Still, on both sides, hopes for peace survive through the tears.

Rami Ghazawi and Gal Levinson had lives of great promise and shared a belief in the need for peace. Each nonetheless fought for his cause and died in the battle while trying to save comrades.

Rami, 16, was a budding activist in the West Bank town of Al Bireh, son of an intellectual at the forefront of the Palestinian uprising. His father remains committed to peace and has been joined by prominent Israelis in seeking a court order to force greater accountability by the army.

Gal, 20-year-old son of an Israeli banker, was raised in a wealthy Tel Aviv suburb and served in an elite paratroop unit even though he questioned Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

His death along with three other soldiers took precedence over news of peace talks for days and prompted calls for an all-out campaign against guerrillas in Lebanon. Israel held back, and despite their loss, Gal's parents believe peace will be achieved.

RAMAT HASHARON, Israel — David Levinson began praying for a quick settlement with the Arabs when his eldest son, Gal, was drafted in November 1991 and sent to South Lebanon.

But talks with Lebanon and Syria remained deadlocked, and Gal, 20, was killed Feb. 7 in an ambush by Hizbollah, along with three other soldiers.

"I still believe that we will see a solution eventually. Unfortunately, we paid a huge price before it was reached," said Levinson, a 48-year-old bank executive, in the kitchen of his spacious home in this wealthy suburb of Tel Aviv.

Snapshots of Gal Levinson were spread on the kitchen table. With his carrot-coloured hair and freckled face, he stood out everywhere. In one picture, his paratroop unit stood at attention in an army ceremony, backs to the camera. Only Gal turned towards the photographer, a big grin on his face.

Gal's mother, Malka, said her son was a good but reluctant soldier. "He asked himself, 'what are we doing in the territories? What are we doing in Lebanon?'" said Mrs. Levinson, 48, eyes puffy from crying.

When Gal came home for weekend leave, the first thing he would do was put a gold earring in his left lobe and go to his upstairs room to practice bass guitar, his mother recalled. Gal and his 15-year-old brother, Udi, would play along with rock tapes, such as Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon."

Gal had planned to do odd jobs after the army to raise money for a trip to South America. He served as his unit's medic, and was considering studying medicine when the journey was over.

On Feb. 7, patrolling near the village of Sojod in Israel's buffer zone in South Lebanon, his unit was ambushed by a Hizbollah squad firing rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns.

After the initial attack, Gal jumped from the safety of his armoured vehicle to treat a wounded soldier, Levinson said. Running towards the wounded man, Gal was shot in the foot, but kept going. While trying to bandage the soldier, Gal was shot in the arm. By the time a backup team arrived, he had lost too much blood and died at a nearby army base.

The deaths of the four soldiers pushed aside news of a breakthrough in Israel-PLO talks in Cairo and prompted speculation that Israel would launch a major retaliatory strike or break off talks with Syria. In the end, Israel held back and the talks continue.

"It gives us great pride to know that he did what he thought was the right thing to do," Levinson said. "However, it doesn't ease the pain or the grief."

Udi, long straight hair falling over his face, popped into the kitchen a few times for a snack, but said he did not want to talk about his older brother. Later, the sounds of him practicing guitar drifted from upstairs.

Levinson said he could not bear to think about the day three years from now when Udi would be drafted.

His wife disagreed: "I think perhaps we will be at peace by then, so he won't have to do service in Lebanon," she said. "I just hope so."

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Le Monde Sous Marin  
18:30 Magazine Local  
19:00 News in French  
19:15 The weekly sport magazine  
19:30 News in Hebrew  
20:30 News in Arabic  
21:30 The Torkelsons  
22:00 News in English  
22:20 Feature Film "The Rescue"  
23:50 Sorry

### PRAYER TIMES

06:44 Fajr  
06:01 (Sunrise) Duha  
11:48 Dhuhur  
15:43 'Asr  
17:34 Maghrib  
18:51 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632765  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrence Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 63341.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691  
The Evangelical Church in Amman Tel. 811295

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures tend to rise gradually with a chance of scattered showers and winds becoming southerly moderate. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy with a chance of scattered showers. Winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.  
Amman ..... 4 / 14  
Agaba ..... 8 / 22  
Deserts ..... 3 / 16  
Jordan Valley ..... 7 / 20

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 10, Agaba 20 Humidity readings: Amman 69 per cent, Agaba 40 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Ghaleb Zawaideh ..... 736011  
Dr. Youssef Nasr ..... 851124  
Dr. Fakher Bilal ..... 683412  
Dr. Khalidoun Asfour ..... 666873  
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912  
Fordows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asema pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nairokh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 649445  
Shuteyani pharmacy ..... 637660  
Nairokh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

IRAD:  
Dr. Fayez Al Qadi ..... 245743  
Alquds pharmacy ..... (-)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Walid Halasa ..... 962799  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 965417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate  
Rescue ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 109  
Rescue Police ..... 12, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 891228  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage  
Complaints ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone  
Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Radio Jordan ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power  
Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport ..... 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 8181232  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. .... 6442816  
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. .... 642412  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine/Shmeisani ..... 664174  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 843845  
Al-Muasher Hospital ..... 667279  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666127  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164  
Italian, Al-Muasher ..... 7771013  
Al-Basir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 7751126  
Army, Marja ..... 09161715  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 0224050  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155

ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)90560  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)980732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital ..... (09)90990

IRAD:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (03)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (03)27275  
Ibn Al-Nafis Hospital ..... (03)247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS

#### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:10 ..... Setaa (RJ)  
08:30 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
08:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
09:30 ..... Riyadh (RJ)  
09:55 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:00 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
10:20 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
10:45 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
17:00 ..... Cairo (RJ)

18:45 ..... Bangkok (RJ)  
19:00 ..... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:35 ..... Cairo (MS)  
10:00 ..... Khartoum (SD)  
12:25 ..... Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)  
18:45 ..... Frankfurt (LH)  
01:15 ..... Dubai (EM)  
Amsterdam (KL)

### DEPARTURES

#### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)  
12:00 ..... London (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Frankfurt (LH)  
12:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
20:00 ..... Dhahran (RJ)  
20:15 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
20:45 ..... Dubai, Karachi (RJ)  
20:50 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
21:30 ..... Abu Dhabi, Muscat (RJ)  
23:00 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:00 ..... Istanbul (TA)  
06:15 ..... Beirut (ME)  
08:25 ..... Cairo (MS)  
11:00 ..... Khartoum (SD)  
15:30 ..... Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)  
18:45 ..... Dubai (KL)  
02:15 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

### HIAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman ..... 8:00 every Monday  
Arr. Damascus ..... 5:00 p.m. every Monday

Dep. Damascus ..... 7:30 a.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman ..... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg

Apple ..... 550 / 650  
Banana ..... 600  
Banana (Mukammal) ..... 620  
Cabbage ..... 70 / 40  
Carrot ..... 200 / 150  
Cauliflower ..... 200 / 180  
Clementine ..... 240 / 200  
Cucumbers (large) ..... 140 / 80  
Cucumbers (small) ..... 250 / 100  
Eggplant ..... 250 / 90  
Garlic ..... 1000 / 900  
Grape Fruit ..... 200 / 150  
Green beans ..... 1000 / 700  
Lemon ..... 150 / 80  
Marrow (large) ..... 150 / 100  
Marrow (small) ..... 320 / 220  
Olives (green) ..... 700 / 500  
Orange ..... 470 / 120  
Onion (dry) ..... 320 / 300  
Onion (green) ..... 240 / 160  
Peas ..... 200 / 1



## Queen says gender equity, sensitivity can help meet rural women's needs

AMMAN (J.T.) — As a member of the International Steering Committee on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women (ISC), Her Majesty Queen Noor said, "the majority of the world's rural women are subjected to powerful constraints stemming from cultural traditions, political structures and inadequate legal protection."

Speaking at the 1994 ISC meeting held Thursday and Friday in Brussels, Queen Noor, who returned to Amman Sunday, provided an overview of the main issues that face rural women throughout the world as presented to the meeting in five regional reports on the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, and Europe, and delineated several common issues and challenges.

The Brussels meeting, under the patronage of Queen Fabiola, convened with 15 wives of heads of state or government and their representatives from every region of the world, to review and assess international efforts to implement the 1992 Geneva Declaration on Rural Women.

Heads of U.N. and other international development agencies contributed to the meeting, which also discussed the ISC's future plans and its contribution to the 1995 Fourth U.N. Conference on Women in Beijing.

The 1992 Geneva Summit established the ISC as an advocacy group to mobilise political will and public opinion to promote the formulation of national policies for rural women in every country, and to ensure political, financial and technical support for rural women's efforts to enhance their quality of life and increase their productivity.

Speaking of the gender gap, Queen Noor said that "an increasing number of countries



Her Majesty Queen Noor participates in a press conference held at the end of the

International Steering Committee meeting in Brussels (Photo by George Crystal)

and cultures throughout the world appreciate the relevance of gender needs to national development and recognise the dividends that can be realised when these needs are addressed effectively."

The Queen noted the encouraging fact that generally there is greater "gender equity and sensitivity in policy formulation and institutional structures and projects responsible for meeting rural women's needs."

She also emphasised, from a personal Arab-Islamic perspective, the absolute importance of safeguarding the cohesive family unit that characterises the Middle East and North Africa region as the basic building block of development, and providing security and stability for women and their families.

Queen Noor highlighted the importance of partnership among all sectors involved in development, including the donor community, governments and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The NGOs, she said, play a vital role in the empowerment of rural women, as they implement micro and model grassroots development projects that could be replicated at the macro-economic level.

The Noor Al Hussein Foundation's Quality of Life Project, she added, — which is addressing development needs in various rural communities through a comprehensive integrated approach that stresses self-reliance and that trains and supports rural communities to participate actively in policy-making to improve their overall quality of life, — has been recognised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a training model that could be adopted at the national and regional levels.

The Queen also commended the more gender-sensitive approach that donor countries and institutions have begun to adopt in funding international development projects.

She reviewed the region's reports of progress in the status

of rural women and used the 1993 United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) award to Jordan primarily to illustrate the impact on rural women of successful literacy and adult education programmes.

Queen Noor stressed the need for further cooperation and coordination especially at the intra-regional level.

She spoke of the importance of maintaining and enhancing the momentum of the meeting through renewed efforts to mobilise public and private sector support in partnership with rural families to develop successful and sustainable development projects.

The ISC agreed to hold its next meeting in Jordan in 1996 to review regional development strategies and implementation in rural areas of the 1992 Beijing U.N. Conference on Women.

While in Brussels Queen Noor met with King Albert, Queen Paola and Queen Fabiola.

## Donations to Hebron massacre victims to be deposited at banks, institutions

AMMAN (Petra) — The higher national committee charged with supervising fund-raising for the families of victims of the last Friday's massacre of Palestinians in Hebron, announced Sunday that donations will be deposited at the Arab Bank, the Islamic Bank, the Housing Bank, the Jordan Bank, the National Bank and the Cairo-Amman Bank.

The committee also announced the account numbers to which individual and collective donations should be deposited at these banks. (See inset)

According to the committee, donations can also be sent to the office of the Chief

Justice, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, the Ministry of Social Development, the Amman Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) in Amman.

The Arab Bank Sunday announced a donation of JD 100,000 to the families of the Palestinians killed in the terrorist attack on Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron.

The Housing Bank declared donation of JD 50,000 and the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions announced that its members would donate an additional working hour to help the families of the victims.

The account numbers are:

- Islamic Bank (head office) # 41955
- Arab Bank (Shmeisani) # 500/28311/0118
- Housing Bank (head office) # 6/12808/300
- Jordan Bank (Luwibdeh branch) # 15675
- National Bank (head office) # 18065
- Cairo-Amman Bank (head office) # 2/487844

## Hammad calls for draft legislation on public safety, enforcement panel

By Elia Nasrallah and Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Interior Minister Salameh Hammad Sunday opened a one-day public safety conference with a call on the concerned authorities to help draft a law on public safety in Jordan and create a higher national committee for public safety to later enforce the law.

With the growth of industry, threats to the environment and natural and man-made disasters, the minister said, such a law and panel are crucial. "We seek to minimise the dangers posed to man and property, reduce material losses and provide protection to civilians," said Mr. Hammad who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

In his statement, the minister said there was an urgent need to link the concept of public safety to national, economic and social security.

Mr. Hammad also stressed the importance of compiling a data bank to provide public safety information to decision-makers and various concerned institutions.

Mr. Hammad said the Interior Ministry hoped that the participants to Sunday's meeting, who represent public safety authorities, would take this opportunity to:

— adopt well-prepared plans to deal with dangers threatening citizens, property and the environment;

— Help spread public awareness on self-protection measures in case of emergencies and disasters;

— encourage citizens to exercise their civic duty in protecting lives and property; — familiarise themselves with existing laws and regulations with a view towards drafting a unified law on public safety;



Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad Sunday addresses the opening session of a conference on public safety (Petra photo)

— create a higher public safety committee that would not only chart plans for civilian protection, but also suggest mechanisms to deal with the consequences of disasters; and

— provide the necessary material and financial means to ensure the success of prospective plans and policies.

Addressing the first session, Civil Defence Department (CDD) Director Afif Al Ghoul outlined the main tasks of CDD officers during disasters and major emergencies such as fires, as well as in rescue operations and first aid, which call for prompt action.

Concurring on the proposal for a unified law on public safety measures, Lieutenant General Ghoul said that the law should make it compulsory for factories, major firms and various organisations to: question to install fire alarm systems, provide fire-fighting

equipment in public places and forests, reorganise and refurbish public shelters and include public safety rules in school textbooks.

Lt-Gen. Ghoul suggested that the CDD be allocated at least JD 10.5 million annually for the next five years to acquire the necessary equipment and the other requirement to ensure public safety.

A working paper by Munir Baddour, director of occupational safety at the Ministry of Labour, called for tax and duty exemptions on personal protection equipment in order to encourage factory-owners to provide their employees with required safety precautions.

The paper also urged the government to ban the import of machinery that does not meet safety requirements. Other papers submitted at the conference dealt with the licensing of factories away

from residential areas, concerted plans for dealing with emergencies, funding requirements of public safety, the importing and handling of dangerous chemicals, and media's role in alerting the public to public safety precautions.

The meeting which was held at the Royal Cultural Centre was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Ma'an Abu Nowar, several Cabinet ministers, the Amman governor, Public Security Department (PSD) officials and senior army officers.

Mr. Hammad later announced the formation of a special committee to draft the recommendations of the conference. Lt-Gen. Ghoul was named chairman of the committee, which is to submit its recommendations to Prince Hassan and the Council of Ministers.

## West showing greater concern about counterfeiters in the region

By Jack Redden

AMMAN — Amman has all the familiar names of the West: The Golden Arches of McDonald's, Microsoft computer programmes, a Safeway supermarket and video rental shops offering Hollywood's latest.

All are fakes — illusions reproduced in developing countries around the world.

The Golden Arches front a Jordanian restaurant that has nothing to do with the U.S. fast food giant, almost all computer software has been pirated, Safeway is a Jordanian company with no outside links and video films are all illegal copies.

"We are not under pressure," Fahed Faneek, an economist thought to reflect many in government, said in dismissing calls to honour trademarks and copyrights. "We have no reason to protect foreign intellectual property."

Most Jordanians appear to agree.

But the West, having put the squeeze on counterfeiters in Asia, Egypt and the Gulf, is taking a greater interest in what happens in smaller countries such as Jordan.

The Jordanian Copyright Protection Committee, a five-member group which believes Jordan's long-term interests would be better served by a change of attitude, estimates that 95 per cent of all computer software

sold in the country has been copied illegally.

Computer shops charge for hardware and then loan for free any software a customer wants. U.S.-made disks on shelves show the manufacturer's stamp "not for resale."

The committee found a university ordered 200 personal computers and one "copy" of software to duplicate — "it wasn't even an original that was requested," said lawyer Tareef Nabeel.

Virtually all video and audio tapes are pirated. Films from video shops carry warnings against commercial viewing — U.S. phone numbers to report unauthorised use appear across the bottom of the screen.

Near universities, rows of shops with the latest copying machines churn out duplicates of any book at a price of two or three cents a page — hard or soft covers to choice.

The manager of the University Kwik Kopy Centre beside the University of Jordan displayed an academic study on the Middle East. The original, with a library number printed on the spine, cost far more than the JD 6 price of the copy.

A trademark belongs to whoever registered it in Jordan, regardless of who owned it in the rest of the world. If the original owner of a trademark such as Safeway came to Amman, he would find it belongs to a Jordanian. The relative insignificance

of a market of only four million Jordanians has shielded the country from the scrutiny given to pirating in more populous areas such as Asia.

But the United States and Europe have begun to focus on the Middle East. Diplomats report the first targets include Egypt and the oil-rich states of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf. Countries like Jordan will be next.

Pressure will also rise because Jordan has applied to join GATT, the international trade regulatory body, which requires members to protect "intellectual property."

The United States, providing an expert to help tighten protection this year, says it will only release \$9 million in promised aid if it sees some improvement.

Doubts centre on the political will. A copyright law passed by Jordan last year appears to have had no effect.

"If you waited for another 20 years the government would not have issued that law," said Sameer Mubarak, managing director of the Jordanian software company Comsoft. "This law came out as a result of pressure from other governments — Europe, America."

"After we had the law there was no follow-up from these countries to actually enforce it," he added.

Even if the law was enforced, there are gaping

loopholes — one exemption allows libraries, schools, universities and government departments to copy anything.

Paying royalties and licence fees would raise prices in Jordan and enrich the Western world that makes most of the products. But failure to protect copyrights also limits what companies will send to Jordan and cripples local efforts to come up with original products.

"There has got to be tough, serious enforcement of intellectual property rights," U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown told businessmen during a visit last month. "The type of activity going on in Jordan has to stop."

"It's not up to the U.S. to stop it, but I can tell you this: Until it stops it is going to be an inhibiting factor to investment in Jordan, to the sharing of our technology, to technology transfer, to joint venture opportunities."

The Jordanian group campaigning for copyright protection found that one Cabinet minister was summoned by customs agents to examine a shipment from Singapore — 5,000 pirated copies of his own book.

Mr. Mubarak, a victim of software piracy, summed up the case for protecting the creators: "Will we support a guy with a delivery truck and a xerox machine in his office, or the guy who thinks a lot and writes the book?"

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Prince Firas urges local support for handicapped

SALT (Petra) — Prince Firas Ben Ra'd Sunday stressed the role of local communities in supporting activities and programmes for the handicapped. During a meeting with government officials from Balqa Governorate, Prince Firas said private and public institutions only cater to three per cent of the disabled in Jordan, and he called for implementing voluntary programmes aimed at an enhancing role of local communities in the early detection and rehabilitation of disabilities. Prince Firas's meeting with the officials came after a tour of the various institutions for the disabled. He was accompanied by members of the technical committee of Jordan's Sports Federation for the Handicapped. Prince Firas said one of the priorities of the federation is to expand horizontally in the governorates outside Amman to promote sports for the handicapped in the various governorates and cities through performances and activities.

#### Cabinet approves 12 new companies

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Sunday endorsed a recommendation made by the Investment Encouragement Committee authorising the establishment of 12 new companies and granting them the exemptions provided for in the Investment Encouragement Law. The Cabinet also allowed 40 companies and hotels to import their basic requirements and supplies.

#### University receives TV studio from Japan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Educational Technologies Programme at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Educational Sciences Sunday received an advanced television studio operating on the Betacam system. Donated by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as part of a \$500,000 contribution, the studio will enable the faculty to produce high standard educational and documentary films and programmes, which can be broadcast from Jordan Television (JTV) and from Arabsat.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Riham Ghassib at The Gallery Inter-Continental Hotel.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Jalal Ariqat at Ab'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. except Fridays).
- ★ Art exhibition by several artists at the Alla Art Gallery (8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.).
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artists at the Royal Cultural Centre (8:30 p.m.-midnight).
- ★ Photo exhibition by artist Latifa Yousef at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of medical herbs at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.-midnight).
- ★ Art exhibition by Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.-midnight).
- ★ Wood carving exhibition by artist Samer Ousama at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art and photo exhibition by several Arab artists at the Balqa Art Gallery in Fubeis (Tel. 720902).
- ★ "Permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman (Tel. 643251/2).

- ★ Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

#### FILMS

- ★ Short film entitled "Sketches of Rome" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Film in French entitled "Le Maître De Musique" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

#### MUSIC HOUR

- ★ Show of a videotaped variety of classical music at the student multi-purpose building at the university of Jordan (12:00 noon-1:00 p.m.).

#### DRAMA

- ★ Drama entitled "The Question" at the Royal Cultural Centre (11:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.).

#### LECTURE

- ★ Lecture entitled "A Trip To The Wilderness Of Jordan" accompanied by slides at the Goethe-Institut in Jabal Amman at 11:00 a.m.

## Muta U. finishes building tenders

MUTA (Petra) — Muta University President Abdul Rahman Atiyat Sunday said that tenders for the implementation of the third stage of development of the university have been completed.

The construction is expected to cost JD19.5 million, said Dr. Atiyat, adding that this stage entails building sports facilities, dormitories for cadets, a students' restaurant and a residential quarter for the faculty members, as well as buildings for the faculties of agriculture, engineering and nursing, and the expansion of the existing road network.

At present, work is underway for the implementation of the second development phase at the cost of JD14.5 million.

Under construction are a wastewater treatment plant and buildings to include lecture halls, a student activities centre, the faculty of education, laboratories, women students' dormitories, clinics and warehouses, said Dr. Atiyat.

He said that the nursing facilities to be set up were needed to cover the shortages in the nursing centres and hospitals in the southern regions of Jordan.

## Cairo police clash with protesters

(Continued from page 1) academic centre, houses of diplomats and the synagogues. Israeli tourists were advised to avoid travelling to Egypt for the time being, the sources said.

Security was beefed at Cairo airport where passengers boarding the Israeli airliner El Al were being thoroughly searched, they added.

were to prevent any possible attack by groups which vowed to avenge the mosque massacre with attacks across the world.

Similar measures were taken in the United States.

Egypt's most active militant group, the Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group) said on Saturday it had ordered its armed units to step up attacks to avenge the Hebron massacre.

"We, the Gamaa Al Islamiyah, announce that our military operations from now until the end of the (fasting) month of Ramadan will be (carried out) as a dutiful revenge to the martyrs of the Ibrahim Mosque and as a modest support to the strugglers of Palestine," the group said in a statement faxed to an international news agency.



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Established 1975

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## Survival before dialogue

U.S. PRESIDENT Bill Clinton's proposal to move the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israeli peace talks to Washington in "a continuous session till agreement is reached" appears to hang in the balance, pending Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's agreement to PLO demands for international protection for Palestinian and the evacuation of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

Renewed calls by the Palestinians for improved security conditions, before negotiations can be resumed, are justifiable considering that support among them for the peace talks has been eroding even before Friday's massacre that killed over 70 people and injured hundreds of others. Given that support has only weakened in the aftermath of the mass killing of Al Haram Al Ibrahim worshippers and the already vulnerable PLO leadership has to reckon with the growing hostile sentiment of its constituents within and outside the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the case for the new demands has to be respected, even though neither the Israelis nor the Americans like it.

The question remains whether the Israelis, the Palestinians and the Americans will allow the new situation to torpedo the whole peace effort by pigging into the hands of Jewish extremists who would like nothing more than to frustrate the peace talks altogether.

The group of Jewish fundamentalists whom the killer epitomised and represented, never wanted anything to do with peace in the area because they stand to profit more from chaos, instability and continued belligerence between Arabs and Israelis. The Arab side, on the other hand, has to be careful in handling the new development in that it has to keep in mind its vital interest in the peace process. The Arabs entered that process, according to U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, not to please the Israelis or to do favours for either the Rabin government or its predecessor government of Yitzhak Shamir. The Arab World opted for peace because there was no alternative to doing so or its interests were better served that way. It will be recalled that former Israeli prime minister Shamir was footdragged so hard and for so long before and after the Madrid conference was launched, clearly because he never wanted the peace process to pick up momentum.

It would seem that the way out of any Israeli-Palestinian deadlock lies in doing both: addressing legitimate Palestinian concerns for security and pressing ahead with a speedy implementation of the PLO-Israeli accord. This can best be done by not only disarming the extremist settler groups but by outlawing them altogether and disarming all settlers in the occupied territories, leading eventually to taking them back inside Israel. For its part, the Clinton administration can help by stopping the millions of dollars that Kach and its likes receive from their supporters in the U.S. and, better still, by cracking down on the networks of conspiracy and terrorism organised by the Jewish fanatics in New York and other American cities and towns.

As PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and other Palestinian leaders noted over the weekend, Jewish colonies in the midst of Arab communities are nothing but a time bomb ready to explode at any time. Centre-staging this issue is called-for in the Washington peace talks, and expanding the agenda to include a crucial item on "security and peace" in the interim period appear to be the way to go from here. There have to be solid guarantees that the Palestinians will get the necessary protection if they are to resume the talks, in Washington or elsewhere.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour Sunday urged the Arab countries involved in the Middle East peace process to boycott the meeting in Washington and adopt a policy towards Israel and the United States that would ensure the return of the occupied Arab lands. It is clear to the Arab masses that the Arab governments are not interested in pursuing the present course of negotiations to Washington under U.S. pressure and out of fear of Israel's military power, said Fakhri Kassar. The writer said that the Arab regimes have now discovered that the negotiations that started in Madrid are leading nowhere and that the Israelis are pursuing their practicism in the occupied Arab lands to force the Arabs to capitulate and succumb to the U.S.-Israeli wishes. It is clear to all now that the Israelis are not concerned with peace but rather determined to pursuing their repressive acts in occupied Palestine to evict the Arabs from their homeland. The massacre in Hebron was another link in a long chain of acts of repression and intimidation to help the Zionists achieve their goal, said Mr. Kassar. Referring to Arab condemnations of the Israeli crimes, the writer said these and many other denunciations cannot help the Arabs regain their rights, saying that the only answer is to translate Arab threats for revenge into practice on the ground. The writer said that it is regrettable to say that Israelis realise the fact that the Arabs issue condemnation statements but are in no position to do anything practical in return. The only tool in the Arab hands at the moment, he said, is to stop the negotiations with Israel as one step towards further firm collective action.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i urged the Health Ministry to speed up the application of a national health scheme which, he said, would benefit the poor class. Nazih said that the national scheme is needed to help citizens who are not covered by any health service like employees of firms and government civil servants. We have been hearing statements from the Health Ministry and other sources about plans for implementing the health scheme to benefit all citizens. But we have not seen any practical steps taken to ensure the implementation of such plan, said the writer.

## Hebron pogrom and the quality of revenge

By Rami G. Khouri

THE HEBRON mosque massacre has generated intense emotions among all concerned people, but above all it is an event that is defined by great sadness. The gravity of the crime, the intensity of Palestinian suffering and the audacity of the Zionist ideology that provides the context in which such a thing could happen are all overshadowed in the end by the numbing combination of anger and helplessness that characterises the Arab World — a combination of emotions whose outstanding trait is sadness.

In historical terms, the Hebron mosque pogrom will probably turn out to be the decisive turning point that finally pushed Palestinians and Israelis, along with the other concerned Middle Eastern players, to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict through peaceful diplomacy. The Deir Yassin massacre in Spring 1948 symbolised the high point of Zionist terror at mid-century that aimed to depopulate the land of its Palestinian inhabitants; the Hebron pogrom is likely to be seen in retrospect as the high point of Zionist terror at end-century. But this time, the result will be to intensify efforts to end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands and to allow the Palestinians the opportunity to live as free people on their ancestral soil.

Israelis and many Jews may be annoyed that we use the term "pogrom" to describe the indiscriminate killing of dozens of praying Palestinians by a Zionist zealot. Pogroms — morally, historically, politically and intellectually — are generally presented as the exclusive suffering of Jews at the hands of anti-Jewish elements. Jews have indeed suffered repeated pogroms in Europe, Russia and the Middle East in their long history, and, therefore, they sought a Jewish state as a refuge for their people from future pogroms.

In doing so, however, the Jewish people inflicted injustices and suffering on the Palestinians and Arabs. How ironic — how sad — that in the closing decades of the 20th century, some Jews should themselves inflict pogroms against Palestinians and undertake systematic killing of other Arabs, especially in Lebanon.

The Israeli government and the international news media are presenting the Hebron pogrom as the work of a single madman. Technically, it probably was, in the sense that Baruch Goldstein walked into the mosque on his own and shot at many Palestinians as he pleased.

Isn't it interesting, though, how in the case of Zionist perpetrators of pogroms against Palestinians, insanity is treated as an isolated, freak and unusual incident, while in all other similar situations an attempt is made to identify the deeper causes and the wider context which allow the insane act of mass murder to take place? Isn't it interesting that gunmen who kill scores of innocent people in the United States, or Palestinians who kill Israelis, or Serbs, Bosnians and Croats who kill each other, are assessed within their full societal context; their violent acts are explained by the societal values and political pressures that such individuals are subjected to — but in the case of Israelis killing many Arabs, we are asked to accept pogroms as the unfortunate acts of deranged individuals, and, essentially, to forgive and forget.

The facts are otherwise. The insanity is not only in the mind of the lone gunman. The insanity is also in the moral fabric and the political goals of a Zionist ideology that sees Jews as having a higher moral standing than other people in the eyes of God, and higher national rights in the context of 20th century history. The insanity is in the glorification of a Judeo-centric nationalism that is necessarily built on the denial of Palestinian identity, on the denial of Palestinian homes and farms, and on the graves of thousands of dead Palestinians.

Mass killings of Palestinians and other Arabs have been an institutionalised, sometimes even glorified, aspect of Zionist ideology since near the turn of the century. Israeli state policies, which promote and fund Jewish colonial settlements, allow settlers to carry arms, and apply grievously discriminatory and often racist official policies against the indigenous Palestinian population, are policies that, in the end, make pogroms of Palestinians not only likely, but probably inevitable — and, for a small number of Israeli zealots, perhaps even desirable and justifiable.

The reality of the Zionist-Palestinian/Arab nationalist conflict that has defined this region for most of this century comprises repeated incidents of mass killing on both sides. The cycle of fear, madness and death that defines Arabs and Israelis is doubly tragic — first because it inflicts such repeated suffering on both sides, and second because it fuels a cycle of anger and revenge that perpetuates the cycle of death and makes pogroms a chronic feature of the political and emotional landscape.

For all those who died on both sides, whether at the hands of crazed lone gunmen or as a consequence of fanatic nationalist ideologies, it is too late to relieve the suffering and the loss. But the living are required to respond with sentiments more rational and more noble than the instinctive cry for revenge and retribution. We, the living on both sides, are challenged to transcend the fears and the anger that have generated so much death, and to rid our national political morality of the chronic quest for vengeance and the perpetual suffering of innocent civilians.

If this gruesome century has taught us anything, it should have taught us the unacceptable cost and the ultimate futility of violence. Our obligation to those who have died and to those who still live is to identify the root causes of the violence and to eliminate them once and for all. The appropriate antidote to crazed gunmen and fanatic ideologies is not more of the same, but rather rational analysis and thoughtful diplomacy to rid our landscape of this dehumanising legacy.

Baruch Goldstein and all those who share his fanaticism want us to respond with heightened doses of emotionalism, anger and violence. To do so would be to honour his life and his death by perpetuating the brand of political intransigence and militaristic zealotry that he represented. The most appropriate response that we can offer to the legacy of Baruch Goldstein and the militant Zionism he personified is to refuse to play by his rules — to relegate his Zionist madness to the scrapheap of history and to refuse to participate in the cycle of killing that he tried to glorify.

We can do this by several related means: by containing the militarism of Zionist colonial-settlers in the first instance by disarming the settlers and providing international protection for the Palestinians, and then by reversing the context of Zionist occupation and colonialism that breeds violence and pogroms. We can best achieve this through a negotiated disengagement and a peace accord that allows the Palestinians to exercise their national rights in their own land.

The international disgrace that Israel has suffered as a consequence of the Hebron pogrom should help to speed up the success of the current peace negotiations because the whole world recognises the need to end the Israeli occupation of Palestine as the means to bring the killings to an end. The moral and political standing of Israel before the world community has suffered from this pogrom almost as grievously as have the Palestinian people. We must build on this and work diplomatically to assure that the chances of future pogroms are minimised.

Revenge and vengeance are human emotions that cannot be easily denied. The quality of revenge, however, can be heightened by a rational analysis of what we could do to maximise our gains and to minimise the gains of the enemy of Zionist ideology/mythology.

We should refuse the instinctive tendency to seek revenge through a fresh cycle of death. Instead, we should work to make sure that the dreams of Zionist conquest and hegemony, like the bodies and beliefs of the Baruch Goldsteins of this world, are forever rendered dead, buried and forgotten under the weight of a more universal and humanistic ideology that values human equity, fraternity and coexistence.

The enduring sadness of this situation for the Arabs is that we have been unable to respond effectively to the challenge of 20th century predatory and militaristic Zionism through the power of the gun. Baruch Goldstein's dying wish must have been to prompt us to turn to the gun once again. Our greatest revenge would be to deny him this wish, and instead to use effective diplomacy to tame his crazed legacy by generating Arab, Islamic and international political power that could assert our humanity and the justness of our national cause, while burying his forever as an ignominious and twisted aberration.

## Peace clearly contingent on dismantling of settlements

By Dr. Musa Kellani

THE COLD-BLOODED killing of more than 60 Palestinian worshippers at the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron on Friday is described by many in the West as unprecedented. But we in Jordan and elsewhere in the Middle East know different.

From Deir Yassin in 1948, and a few other Palestinian villages unrecorded in history, to Sabra and Shatila in 1982 and a Tel Aviv suburb in May 1990, our memories are fresh of massacres of Palestinians to serve the Zionist ideology in one form or another.

We are hearing loud condemnation from Israeli leaders of the Hebron massacre. But our memory is vivid that the late David Ben-Gurion also condemned the Deir Yassin massacre and its perpetrators, but we learned later that the slaughter was carried out by Menachem Begin in collusion with Ben-Gurion as part of a grand scheme to clear the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv corridor.

It is quite clear that the very Zionist ideology does not accept coexistence at equal footing, the very fundamental base that we are seeking to reach as a solution to the decades-old conflict in the 28-month-old Middle East peace negotiations. And that raises quite a few questions. But the ready-made answers that we hear in the street today are not the right ones either.

There are many unexplained aspects in the Hebron massacre; whether it was the work of a lone "psychopath," as Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin chose to describe the killer, Baruch Goldstein, or a collective plot of Jewish settlers with help from the Israeli army as Palestinian witnesses have said.

Who knows, in 10 or 20 years from now, someone somewhere might decide to come out with the truth or parts of it. Until then, these questions will have to be shelved. Even a "judicial" Israeli inquiry, as called for by many countries, would never be able to establish the clear facts in the affair if only because those who possess the truth may have vested interests in concealing it.

We do not even know whether Goldstein was actually killed. We have not heard what happened to his body. Some say he turned the gun on himself while others say Palestinians killed him with "iron bars" — something that does not exactly litter the floor of a mosque during an early morning Ramadan prayer. But what did litter the floor when Goldstein or Goldsteins finished his or their handiwork was the flesh, blood and brains of our brothers and kinsmen with whom we in Jordan have shared all their grief and suffering for centuries.

Our hearts and souls go out to the Jabaris, Tamimis, Abduls Nabis, Abu Sheinels, Abdouls and other families from Hebron who lost their loved ones in the massacre, which goes down in history as another landmark in the Zionist campaign to drive out the Palestinians from their homeland.

While expressing our deep shock and sorrow over the despicable crime, let us not serve the very perpetrators of the massacre by embracing extremist action, which is precisely the kind of response the Zionists want to draw from us in their endeavours to wreck the peace process.

Our history is full of incidents where rash decisions and actions from people among us have always led to repercussions which made our positions worse. Examples are plenty. International public opinion was with us when Israeli commandos staged a massacre against Lebanese political leaders one week before the 1972 attack on Israeli athletes in Munich. But we lost the world's support with the killings at the Olympics.

Since then, some of us have proved that they never learned from the lessons of

history at a time when what we needed most was international support against a foe who always enjoyed almost unlimited moral, military, financial and political support from some of the strongest quarters of the globe.

Retribution and drawing blood for blood and extracting an eye for an eye are indeed personally satisfying, but what we would be doing in the process is to pull the rug from under the very feet of the hopes of a lasting peace that we seek.

We cannot afford to a repetition of such reckless actions now no matter how strong our grief and sense of personal loss. What we need now is a careful assessment of the situation and present the facts as they are to the international community, which is already voicing alarm that the peace process is faltering, and demand world action to eliminate the features of the Middle East conflict that prompt extremism and massacres like the one we witnessed in Hebron four days ago.

"If anything, any Israeli presence, military or civilian, in the occupied territories is a clear invitation to trouble, today, tomorrow or the day after that, whether in the interim or in the final status, and a non-starter for any peace accord to take hold and lead to an equitable solution to the basic conflict."

For starters, the international conscience appears to have registered the fact that the very presence of Jewish settlements dotting the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip is a Democleus' sword hanging over any peace agreement.

If anything, any Israeli presence, military or civilian, in the occupied territories is a clear invitation to trouble, today, tomorrow or the day after that, whether in the interim or in the final status, and a non-starter for any peace accord to take hold and lead to an equitable solution to the basic conflict.

What we saw in Hebron on Friday was the manifestation of the hatred that hardcore Zionists harbour against the Arabs, and it has proved that any talk of peaceful coexistence and normal relations among Muslims and Jews is premature under the present circumstances and the de facto situation in the occupied territories.

All our efforts should now be focused on averting actions that undermine the peace process since that would be serving the goals of whoever was (or were) behind the Hebron massacre. We should, in all good faith, give Mr. Rabin and his Foreign Minister Shimon Peres the opportunity to use the massacre as a very strong card, and more than justifiably so, to adopt firm action against the extremists in Israel, the Likudniks and settlers included.

In the meantime, we should move on the diplomatic ground to ensure that the international community is completely convinced that an equitable solution to the Palestinian problem lies in a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and the total dismantling of all settlements on Palestinian land.

The point that should be driven home into the international conscience is that regardless of the Sept. 13 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the fact remains that without concrete moves towards a total elimination of Israeli presence in the occupied territories, there cannot be any hope for the peace process, now or ever.



## Muslim-Croat federation Bosnia's most unlikely combination

By Dusan Stojanovic

The Associated Press

BELGRADE — A U.S.-proposed Muslim-Croat federation is perhaps the least likely combination for the ethnic patchwork that is Bosnia-Herzegovina. But even if the union doesn't last, it could bring peace to the Balkans.

Under a new plan, to be discussed in Washington, Bosnian Muslims and Croats, former allies who have fought bitterly for months, would form a federation, while Bosnian Serbs, who have long sought to unite with Serbia, would be free to form their own republic.

Bosnian Serbs, who control 70 per cent of Bosnia, welcome the Muslim-Croat federation. By the time of its probable breakup, they

would already have achieved their main goal: union with Serbia proper.

"We have nothing against a Muslim-Croat agreement. We have always advocated it because it is a step towards peace," said Bosnian Serb leader Nikola Koljevic.

Bosnian Muslims and Croats initially were allies against the Serbs, who rebelled against Bosnia's secession from Serb-led Yugoslavia two years ago. The Muslims and Croats later began fighting each other over territory.

The Muslim-Croat clash was so bitter and violent that few in Bosnia think the two nations could ever again remain in one state.

"We didn't fight the Mujahedeens to live with them again," Bosnian Croat soldier Anto Ceko told Bosnian

Serb TV. "Anyone who thinks this is possible is crazy."

The U.S. administration apparently assumes that a Muslim-Croat federation, which could later transform into a confederation with Croatia proper, would protect Muslims and Croats and create a counterbalance to a "Greater Serbia."

"U.S. politicians apparently don't understand that the key for the peace in the Balkans is not the Muslim-Croat factor, but the Serb-Croat one," said Predrag Simic, Belgrade's prominent independent political analyst.

Serbs and Croats were the two biggest nations in former Yugoslavia, and their relations have always been crucial in the region's troublesome history. Orthodox

Serbs and Catholic Croats have had better ties among each other than with the Muslims who have been considered enemies of Christianity.

"But despite the fact that the Muslim-Croat federation could only be formal and short-lived, it could bring a fragile peace to Bosnia," Mr. Simic said.

Croatia's nationalist president Franjo Tudjman has paid lip-service to the idea of Croat-Muslim confederation in the past while pursuing other avenues, such as cooperation with Serbia in a three-way division of Bosnia.

But under the U.S. pressure and possible sanctions against Croatia for its meddling in the Bosnian war, Mr. Tudjman reluctantly agreed to the Muslim-Croat federation.



# Violence against women rooted in cultural values, economic conditions

By Waleed Sadi

RECENTLY, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights adopted a resolution calling for the appointment of a special rapporteur on violence against women. The decision was hailed as an overdue and indispensable measure in spite of the array of conventions and declarations already in force on women's rights.

By way of examples, one would list the International Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women and the Convention on the Political Rights of Women. This is not to mention the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the two umbrella treaties on human rights.

So why take this yet additional step to further the protection of women and the promotion of their rights. The answer could be simple: despite all the human rights conventions and declarations on women, girls and women are still the subject of extreme cruelty and exploitation by men worldwide. It is axiomatic that women are more vulnerable than men when they walk to their homes, work or schools. They are also less paid for equal work than their male counterparts, especially in the underdeveloped countries. Girls are also forced into prostitution and made carriers of the HIV virus for life and recently have been used as an instrument of ethnic cleansing. Many societies still arbitrarily select the sex of their children by either genetic engineering or forceful miscarriages of female fetuses. The list of abuses against women is indeed getting longer despite all the rhetoric to do something about them.

In a moving statement in the wake of the decision to appoint a special rapporteur on violence against women, the U.S. representative to the ongoing session of the Human Rights Commission Geraldine Ferraro reminded the participants that if the world is left more in the hands of women, there would be less wars and less violence. "It is not women who stand behind the heavy guns that belted the markets of Sarajevo. It is not women leaders who trample down democracy in the world or bomb refugees camps," Mrs. Ferraro continued to say on the occasion. The moral of the U.S. representatives intervention is straight forward: Men and not women are responsible for the ills and misfortunes of the globe.

## Human Rights File

To be sure, violence against girls and women is on the increase even in the most advanced countries and societies. There is also no doubt that females require more and more protection. It could even be true that women in places of leadership would make the world a safer and more sane place to live in.

Yet it would be an oversimplification to think that more conventions and declarations would solve the problem altogether or fundamentally change the status of females worldwide.

A special rapporteur would naturally bring to better focus the continued cycle of violence against women. Probably when all the studies and debates are finished, a new treaty would be drafted and adopted on how to reverse the tide of violence and abuses against women. The latest edition on women rights would certainly help the cause of women across the board. As a matter of fact, since the introduction of specific treaties on girls and women, there has been a more concerted effort to enhance their position. Still, in the final analysis, what matters most is the cultural dimension of the equation in which the attitudes, misconceptions and biases against women are deeply embedded.

The actions against discrimination and ill treatment of women of all ages obviously call for soul cleansing and cultural purification from the current archaic exploitation and abuse of females.

It would also seem that the ills of girls in many parts of the world have in part roots in economic factors. What drives or forces young teenagers into prostitution in many countries of the world, especially in the underdeveloped countries, are abject poverty and economic deprivations.

Girl prostitution in advanced societies have roots in other reasons such as breakdown of family and an overdose of personal freedoms that end up putting girls and women in so many vulnerable positions.

The problem of violence against women, therefore, is multidimensional, touching upon many aspects of old and modern life. Depending on laws and regulations alone to eliminate the scourge would not do the job. Adopting stricter legally binding guidelines would offer the legal regime to pursue the struggle against the exploitation and mistreatment of women.

# Arafat dismisses Israeli 'crackdown'

(Continued on page 5)

"The government took a very important step that signals a new way of dealing with extremist settlers," he said.

The cabinet decisions "are appropriate in their gravity to the gravity that the government is giving to that terrible and horrible incident ... on Friday," he said.

The main target is Kach, a hard-core militant movement founded by Rabbi Meir Kahane. He was assassinated in 1990.

Mr. Sarid said the government empowered the army to restrict settlers' movements inside the territories, but stopped short of banishing them because of "legal problems."

Israel army radio said five arrest warrants for unidentified extremist settlers have been issued. Another 15 unidentified settlers will be issued with "restricting warrants" limiting their movements.

Another 20, also not named, will be disarmed, the radio reported.

Officials said one extremist was arrested by police late Saturday, before the cabinet ordered the crackdown. Israel Radio identified him as Kach member Shmuel Ben-Israel, a settler.

The radio said police had planned to arrest other Kach activists in Hebron and Kiryat Arba, a nearby Jewish settlement which is a hardliner stronghold. But the men had fled, apparently anticipating a crackdown.

Israeli officials named one as Kach spokesman Naom Federman. He telephoned Israel Radio Sunday from an unknown location before the cabinet meeting ended and said: "I'm not hiding, I'm touring Israel."

Before the cabinet met Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said the Jewish extremists are "a disaster for the Jewish people. We need to take away from them every possibility of using arms."

"Under no circumstances will we give in to them or be scared of them," he said.

The right-wing Likud opposition bloc expressed support for Mr. Rabin's labour-led government.

The cabinet had been expected to announce action against the Jewish radicals to prevent the PLO-Israeli accord being derailed.

Ahmad Tibi, an Israeli advisor to Mr. Arafat, said before the cabinet convened that the fate of the peace talks depended on the government proving "today that it is sincere in its desire to ... deal with this timebomb that is the settlers."

"I don't think the detention of a few Kach men will satisfy ... without getting proper answers today ... there will be a very heavy cloud over the negotiations and this will lead to a new period we will all regret, a period of bloodshed," he warned.

In Tunis, Mr. Arafat assembled the PLO leadership Sunday to decide whether to respond to the invitation by President Bill Clinton to resume peace talks in Washington Wednesday. The Israelis have said they will go.

PLO officials say the Israeli measures concern only a few hardline settlers.

"These are cosmetic measures only aimed at containing the crisis rather than reaching real solutions to the existing tension," Yasser Abed Rabbo, head of the PLO Information Department, told Reuters.

"What is requested are measures to stop the killing of Palestinian citizens."

He said the PLO security requirements "exceeded by far" what the Israeli government was offering.

"We cannot deal with this situation as long as the (Jewish) settlers continue to carry arms and have the right to fire at any citizen. We do not want every Palestinian city to turn into another Sarajevo," he added.

"A number of settlements that constitute a source of terrorism and murder must be abolished especially in Gaza and that of Kiryat Arba near Hebron. The settlers must be disarmed," he said.

Mr. Arafat has put the massacre death toll at 65 and called for an international inquiry, saying that Israeli soldiers were involved. The PLO also wants an international presence in the occupied territories of help protect Palestinians.

Mr. Arafat has in principle agreed to the call by President Clinton to resume peace negotiations with Israel on the implementation of a self-rule peace deal in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

The invitation was handed to Mr. Arafat on Saturday by U.S. Ambassador in Tunis John McCarthy, PLO sources said.

But Mr. Arafat is demanding assurances and security measures from Israel to protect Palestinians in the occupied territories and disarmament of all the settlers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

PLO chief negotiator Nabil Shaath said the two parties were about to sign the Gaza-Jericho agreement before the Hebron massacre, but the Israeli cabinet decisions were inadequate and would not help the PLO take a decision on the peace process.

"Unfortunately, these measures will not be a serious support for any decision on the peace process," Dr. Shaath told Reuters after a meeting with Mr. Arafat.

The PLO Executive Committee was meeting Sunday night to discuss the U.S. invitation, PLO officials said. At least two of 12 active members of the 18-strong committee decided on Sunday to ignore Mr. Arafat's call for an emergency meeting, saying it was a cover to resume peace talks despite the massacre.

Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Sunday tarred Islamic extremists with the same brush as the Jewish settlers who carried out the Hebron mosque massacre but vowed to pursue the peace process.

"The killer joined with the Hamas and the Islamic Jihad in the purpose to kill the peace negotiations," Mr. Rabin told the international conference of Jewish media.

Mr. Rabin said it was "shameful" that other people praised the carnage, even if they are a small minority.

The prime minister underlined his commitment to peace and said the only way forward was to accelerate peace talks.

# Lebanon blast kills nine

said in a television interview that investigators had not established the motive or identified the culprits, but added security forces were hunting them down.

"I think the aim is to disrupt government efforts to improve security conditions in Lebanon," Gen. Hassan said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the explosion in the Zouq Mikhael neighbourhood of Jounieh, 20 kilometres north of Beirut.

But Information Minister Michel Samaha claimed the attack was part of an Israeli "plot whose execution began with the massacre at the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron."

"It is not a coincidence that whenever Israel finds itself isolated ... it resorts to such harsh actions," said Mr. Samaha, a Greek Catholic.

Mr. Samaha, whose government supports the deployment in Lebanon of 40,000 Syrian troops which right-wing Maronites condemn, gave no details to support the charge.

It was the first such attack on a church in Lebanon, which was plagued by bombings during its 1975-1990 war, and came just three months before a visit by Pope John Paul II.

"This is an attempt to cover up for the Hebron massacre," Prime Minister Rafik Hariri said after a visit to the bombed church, echoing Israeli radio which blamed the attack. Mr. Hariri said if there was any link between the blast and the Hebron massacre, told AFP: "There could be a link but we should wait for the results of the investigation."

Sami Al Khatib, who heads the Lebanese parliament's defence affairs committee, said: "The dark Israeli hands tried out the crime."

Mr. Hariri said: "It is clear that this crime aims to divert attention from the massacre in Hebron on Friday and it (the bombing) was done on a Sunday in a church to give the wrong impression that in this region Jews kill Muslims and Muslims kill Christians."

Pope John Paul, due to visit Lebanon in May, condemned the blast as a crime against the country. Speaking in St. Peter's Square, the Pope also condemned the Hebron mosque massacre.

The Pope told pilgrims and tourists in the square he was suffering together with Maronite Christians over what he called "a crime that offends Lebanon and its noble traditions."

He prayed that God would spare Lebanon more mourning, violence and suffering. He added: "This country has already suffered too much."

# Israelis kill bedouin

(Continued on page 5)

people from Hebron joined several hundred Israeli Arabs in the march to the mosque. Nervous soldiers shot at the crowd and fired tear-gas to break up demonstrators trying to enter the mosque, which has been closed since Friday.

Young Palestinians fought Israeli troops all over the town, throwing stones and putting rocks in the roads to block army patrols.

A group of masked teenagers ran into the fray with stones in one hand and an onion. The onion fumes counteracted the effects of tear-gas.

Israeli President Ezer Weizman met Israeli-appointed town leaders in the morning to convey his condolences for the massacre. But relatives and most local leaders gathered in mourning at the Hebron's graduates association refused to talk to him.

The centre of town looked like a battlefield by mid-afternoon, its streets deserted except for Israeli and Palestinian combatants. Women and children crowded onto the roofs of apartment blocks to watch the fighting.

Ambulances threaded their way through the debris on the roads. Two drivers at Mohamad Ali Hospital said Israeli settlers refused to let them pass and threw stones at them.

# King reminds deputies of problems, urges them to shoulder responsibilities

(Continued from page 1)

For starters, the responsible authorities in Israel reveal their real intentions, whether they should their responsibilities towards what happened and take measures that would contribute, to an extent, to reassuring us that all that was exerted of efforts to bring about peace was worth it or not.

"The problem did not start with this massacre or ugly crime. It was preceded by the arson at the Holy Al Aqsa Mosque, and before that attacks on holy places, including the Ibrahim Mosque, and before that violations of the sanctity of holy Christian sites..."

"We are working on, in addition to all what you have known, adopting a stand that would have positive influences, remembering that before anything else our family, brethren and beloved people are always on our minds. I heard some saying 'let us withdraw from the negotiating process.' It is not our right to discuss these things. It is true that I am talking to you as a human being whom you confide in along with all members of the one, big Jordanian family. As a confident human being who also trusts you all, I tell you that I hope all my brothers would give us a chance and support us... to enable us to withstand the continuous and harsh pressures from all directions."

"I hope that we would be at a high level of awareness and full of reserve and determination to stand continuously as we did in the past, as one people who are determined not to bow except to God the Almighty."

"We must face difficulties and pressures, as we have encountered in our history, but then I want every one to be psychologically prepared to stand with us and support us with our foreheads high to have the results we want."

"Some people in this world act taking into their accounts the public opinion in Israel or here or there, as if we do not have a public opinion. We tell them 'no, we have a public opinion and we have an educated and aware people, and we have the determination and the ability to be steadfast and to withstand challenges together under the sun vis-a-vis all issues and over."

not in my capacity regarding my duties, appeal to you all to rise above minor issues and personal clashes and to stop wasting time in a manner that results... in distorting the image... we should tolerate each other and every one of us and you should work to establish constant and new parliamentary traditions and norms so as to give the chance for those who would come after us to proceed on a path with clear features."

"Even from the practical aspect, I do not think that the situation is sound because in every meeting of the House the whole government is present. If we take it this way, the government spends two days with the Lower House, one day with the Upper House and two days in Cabinet meetings. Does it have enough time to tackle public issues?"

"It is my belief that the ministers concerned in any issue discussed at the House, except for important issues of course, might stop having all the staff present. Through dialogue at a House session you might discuss the situation to decide the best way for us to utilise our energies, capabilities and time in the best possible manner."

"The official media are not carrying out any specific role, and we would like to imply that our brothers are moving in this direction because the official media are taken as a government mass media while they are lost in most of the cases. So it should either be a government mass media that would propagate the government's policy or we should find another formula."

"We are now passing through a difficult situation and the suffering is continuing, and pressures are exerted on us from all sides but we should face them with patience and determination. Even reactions towards what we have been facing in the past should be well-studied and should have positive results."

"My question is: Would a (general) strike, for example, with all respects to the view of one of my brothers, in any way serve our people in the occupied territories, in Hebron, at the current stage? If, God forbid, we incite sentiments and one of our guests who is coming from any part of this world was harmed in this country, would it be honourable for us while these people are in our homes, in our country as our guests?"

King Hussein called on all citizens to intensify work and to allocate part of the earnings as a modest contribution to the brothers in Hebron.

"Would it not be better for us instead of interrupting our work and business in Amman and elsewhere to work and lead our normal life and contribute part of our day's earnings to our brothers?"

"I wish that every one of us thinks about what to do to secure some resources that will eventually serve our interests and strengthen our march."

The King called for logical and wise use of resources, particularly at these difficult times. "When we go home for example, why don't we think of lighting only some of the electric lamps instead of lighting them all? And why do brothers or friends not share one car on their way to work and back home instead of using more than one car? The savings made by doing this will benefit us all."

In a reference to the issue of food and drugs, which was debated extensively at the Lower House, King Hussein called for coordination among the various parties concerned with food and drugs if the situation is to be dealt with properly and effectively.

The King said this situation might recur in different parts of the world, adding that "industrialised countries do not worry too much to produce goods for export enjoying the same specifications of those produced for their local consumption."

"This demands that we control such imports properly... We are not the first and will not be the last country where some shortcomings occur. However, such shortcomings can be avoided through continuous control and monitoring."

"Let's look at the broader perspective. How many of you know that we have 7,000 narcotic addicts, as international statistics compiled by international bodies suggest?" the King asked.

He called for remedying this situation by embarking on strict measures against traffickers and by establishing rehabilitation centres for the addicts.

"To be ashamed of this and keep silent about it is a mistake that we should not condone neither for ourselves nor for our sons whom we send to study abroad," he said.

The King said Jordan could embrace democracy and provide all the means for it to thrive so that it will become a model to be emulated by other countries.

The King stressed the importance of shura (consultation) and cooperation in leading Jordan's march.

"It was always on my mind, and I have suggested to my brothers, to coordinate while discussing any draft law in all of the stages it is going through... This mechanism, I believe, is non-existent in a satisfactory manner and I implore God the Almighty to let us have a normal situation."

He noted that Jordan had reportedly called for an Arab summit and for enhancing inter-Arab cooperation.

"We have been in the forefront of those calling for an Arab summit and inter-Arab cooperation and we will continue to do so. I have never considered my differences with anybody here or elsewhere a personal difference. We sometimes differ in our opinions and judgements... (leading to) even an offence which sometimes takes the form of a conspiracy involving an assassination attempt. I have never considered such offences as personal... One should rise above such things because when one is in such a position and assumes such responsibilities, he should rise above all these differences."

King Hussein praised the General Intelligence, the Public Security and Armed Forces, saying that their dedication and hard work were behind the security and stability Jordan enjoys.

"The General Intelligence Department is not against anybody in this country... it seeks to protect all citizens and is working hard to protect them in the face of gigantic apparatus with great potentials and in the most dangerous parts of the Arab World."

The King lauded the Jordanian Armed Forces and Public Security saying that they had become the object of respect and appreciation of the world.

# 'Soldiers opened fire outside'

(Continued from page 1)

One other soldier who was also outside also fired two shots into the air, fearing his comrades were in danger.

In a report Saturday, Israeli Television military correspondent Alon Ben David, quoting army sources, said two soldiers rushed into the mosque as the worshippers were overpowering the gunman, who was wearing his army uniform.

Seeing a unified Israeli attacked by Palestinians, the soldiers fired their weapons, Ben David said.

In the aftermath, troops outside the complex opened fire on between 1,000 and 2,000 Palestinians who pelted rocks and a molotov cocktail at them.

Eight soldiers fired. Two more Palestinians were killed and between 10 and 13 others wounded.

The report did not specify how Goldstein died but Israel television said a Palestinian knocked him down with a fire extinguisher and other worshippers finished him off with iron rods. It was not clear where the rods came from.

Witnesses said Goldstein also threw at least three grenades and doctors said wounds sustained by some of the scores injured supported that.

Palestinian taxi-driver Ashraf Mitzab said troops fired tear-gas and then live bullets after Goldstein opened up.

"People tried to run away but soldiers came into the mosque and used tear-gas at the entrance and also opened fire at people," he said.

# House rejects move

(Continued from page 1)

immensely in their shops. Giving landlords the right to evict them at the end of the lease would result in great losses for them and hurt the economy, he said.

During Sunday's session, the House voted in favour of the recommendations of a special panel to reject the contestations of the elections results in the fourth and fifth districts of Amman.

Several candidates had protested the results of the Nov. 8 parliamentary elections in these two constituencies, claiming that many irregularities, including failure to count the ballots in some ballot boxes, occurred during the polls.

But the committee said it found no such irregularities after listening to witnesses and recounting some ballot boxes it randomly selected. It said it found no reason to doubt the accuracy of the election results.

The House accepted the withdrawal of a contestation of the election results in the Sixth District and formed a new committee to look in to the contestation of the polls results in the Balqa Governorate.

A committee which was earlier set up for this purpose resigned after the House turned down its recommendation to reject the contestation.

The House referred to its Judiciary Committee a request by the Amman Court of First Instance to lift the parliament's immunity from Mr. Khrisha.

The president of the Judiciary Committee said the House was expected to take a vote on the motion to lift the immunity from Mr. Khrisha in its next session in Wednesday.











## U.N. reports truce violations in Sarajevo and Mostar

SARAJEVO (AFP) — The U.N. Sarajevo command said Sunday here had been ceasefire violations from mortar fire in the Bosnian capital by both Serb and Muslim forces and warned that further breaches could be punished by air strikes.

U.N. press officer French Colonel Richard Pernod distributed a statement from "sector Sarajevo" saying there had been "at least one mortar ceasefire violation" from the Bosnian side and "two mortar ceasefire violations" from the Serbs.

"Everyone has to be aware that a ceasefire break will lead to an air riposte asked by UNPROFOR (U.N. Protection Force)," the statement warned.

The statement did not give details but UNPROFOR press officer Dutch Major Rob Annink said radar installed around Sarajevo to trace mortar fire had detected three shootings Saturday.

The first at 3:30 a.m. (0230 GMT) came from Bosnian positions in Zuc, north of the capital.

The second at 9:45 a.m. (0845 GMT) came from Serb positions west of Vogosca, which is also north of Sarajevo.

The third at 11:15 a.m. (1015 GMT) came from west of Jablanica, which is southwest of Sarajevo.

Maj. Annink said U.N. military observers dispatched to these sites had "found no guns or reports of detonations."

He also said there had been "no reports of complaints" about mortar fire from either the Serbs or Muslims.

The six British-made Cymbeline radars deployed around Sarajevo are able to trace the origin of mortar fire within about 100 metres.

The radars were deployed last week to monitor the 20-kilometres (11-miles) artillery exclusion zone NATO decreed around Sarajevo to end shelling between Serb forces besieging the city and the mainly Muslim Bosnians defending it.

The report came after a U.N. spokesman said that shelling on the Muslim-held part of Mostar, in southern Bosnia-Herzegovina, had broken a truce agreed between Bosnian army and Croat officials for two days running.

Eleven shells fell on the eastern part of Mostar late Saturday and two explosions were heard early Sunday in the same area, Colonel Antonio Castro of the UNPROFOR Spanish battalion said.

The Mostar truce went into effect Friday at 1200 GMT. Col. Castro said an investigation would have to be held to determine who was responsible for the shelling.

The Spanish battalion has its headquarters in Medjugorje, around 20 kilometres from Mostar.

The city is divided between the Croat troops who hold the western part and have besieged for the past six months the Muslim-held eastern part where some 50,000 people are trapped.

Meanwhile, Croatia faces further sanctions and economic isolation if it fails to cooperate in peace talks with Bosnian Muslims, a U.S. official says.

"It is really a moment of choice for Croatia," the official said on condition of anonymity.

Bosnian and Croatian leaders began talks here Saturday, hoping to lay the foundation of a Bosnian confederation that will eventually include all the warring factions.

The U.S. official said that if Croatian leaders join in a settlement they can well expect Western assistance "in reconstructing a land that has been devastated by war."

But a lack of cooperation toward that goal could result in "isolation and further economic sanctions," the official said and added: "I think they realise there are powerful reasons to go along."

Briefing reporters, the U.S. official said the purpose of the talks is to create a "bi-communal entity" in which Bosnia's warring factions — Muslims, Croats, and eventually the Serbs — can live in peace.

President Bill Clinton said he was optimistic about the talks.

"I'm hoping so much that this latest effort in and around Sarajevo and the work that's going on now... will eventually lead, shortly, to a peace," President Clinton said in a morning TV interview with CBS Sports.

But the senior U.S. officials who are directing the flow of the talks at meeting rooms in the State Department sought to lower expectations, saying the divisions are wide and that impasses can be expected.

Leaving the State Department after a day of talks, Croatian Foreign Minister Ante Granic described the negotiations as "serious," and said it is "impossible to tell now" if they will succeed.

But when asked whether progress had been made, Mr. Granic replied, "some progress, yes." He said the talks would continue Sunday.

In a similar vein, Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic said, "there is a good will and a desire on both sides to make progress."

"We hope we are on the right track," he told reporters, adding that the American sponsors of the talks have been "very helpful."

Also at the talks was Kresimir Zabak, leader of Croats inside Bosnia.

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BRUSSELS (Agencies) — NATO, worried by Russia's increasingly hostile attitude on the West, is sending a mission this week to persuade Moscow to sign up to the alliance's new "partnership for peace."

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NATO diplomats say the alliance is deeply concerned that its plans to expand cooperation with Russia, Europe's biggest military power, may run aground and tension could increase in the continent as a result.

The centrepiece of the plan is meant to be "partnership for peace", a scheme for closer military links offered by NATO to its former Warsaw Pact foes at an alliance summit last month.

Many Eastern European states, also worried about the rise of extreme nationalism in Russia and the turn away from economic reforms there, see the plan as the first step to full membership of the 16-nation alliance.

While these countries have rushed to join the scheme, Russia has not made clear whether it will do so.

The U.S., British and Spanish ambassadors to NATO will go to Moscow Monday, then to Kiev and Moldova, to explain the "partnership for peace" which does not contain offers

of membership of the alliance or security guarantees.

The mission is the third from NATO to visit former Warsaw Pact members to explain how the partnership will work and alliance sources made it clear that the Moscow leg was regarded as vitally important.

"We are clearly at a very delicate stage of our relations with Russia," one source said.

"Our most urgent desire is that the Russians participate in the partnership we are offering. We have to work doubly hard to establish a new relationship with Russia and we are going to focus on that in the coming weeks."

Since one of the main aims of "partnership for peace" was to include Russia in new European security arrangements, Moscow's refusal to take part would seriously undermine its value.

The alliance is planning to hold joint peacekeeping exercises with some Eastern European countries under the scheme, starting later this year.

These will be small exercises but diplomats said they might upset Russia even more if they took place in countries that were once Moscow's satellites.

NATO has to tread a fine line as it tries to persuade Russia that it should remain on the twin tracks of economic and democratic reform.

The alliance says it alone will decide if and when to accept new members and it will not allow Russia to have a veto over its policy.

At the same time, some allies are worried that if

selected officials who played a key role in the tunnel's chequered construction history. Former British and French premiers Margaret Thatcher and Pierre Mauroy were among the dignitaries at the dinner Saturday (AFP photo)

**Yeltsin ponders next move after amnesty frees coup plotters**

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's President Boris Yeltsin pondered his next move Sunday after the jailed ringleaders of October's hardline uprising were allowed to walk free.

The Kremlin leader failed in a clumsy 11th-hour attempt to block Saturday's release, under a sweeping parliamentary amnesty, of some of his most intractable political foes.

They included his two fiercest opponents — former Parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov and former Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi — who had been held in Moscow's Lefortovo Prison since their arrest last October after Yeltsin sent army tanks to blast Moscow's White House where they were holding out.

The move drew an angry response from the Yeltsin camp — and heavy hints of resolute action by the 63-year-old leader.

The deputies have abused the trust of the people and taken the side of state villains," declared presidential spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov, condemning the pardon approved by the newly-elected State Duma (lower house).

The president reserved the right to use his constitutional powers in a situation "inconsistent with the law," Mr. Kostikov said in a statement published by the official ITAR-TASS news agency.

Mr. Kostikov's blast at parliament had the ring of similar harsh rhetoric by Mr. Yeltsin against the old Supreme Soviet in the lead-up to the bloody October events.

The amnesty virtually turned Mr. Yeltsin's military victory last October into a defeat and suggested that a power struggle with the new parliament, similar to the one he had with the old legislature, lay ahead.

But it was not immediately clear how much steps Mr. Yeltsin could, or would, take in the face of the humiliation.

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Many Eastern European states, also worried about the rise of extreme nationalism in Russia and the turn away from economic reforms there, see the plan as the first step to full membership of the 16-nation alliance.

While these countries have rushed to join the scheme, Russia has not made clear whether it will do so.

The U.S., British and Spanish ambassadors to NATO will go to Moscow Monday, then to Kiev and Moldova, to explain the "partnership for peace" which does not contain offers

of membership of the alliance or security guarantees.

The mission is the third from NATO to visit former Warsaw Pact members to explain how the partnership will work and alliance sources made it clear that the Moscow leg was regarded as vitally important.

"We are clearly at a very delicate stage of our relations with Russia," one source said.

"Our most urgent desire is that the Russians participate in the partnership we are offering. We have to work doubly hard to establish a new relationship with Russia and we are going to focus on that in the coming weeks."

Since one of the main aims of "partnership for peace" was to include Russia in new European security arrangements, Moscow's refusal to take part would seriously undermine its value.

The alliance is planning to hold joint peacekeeping exercises with some Eastern European countries under the scheme, starting later this year.

These will be small exercises but diplomats said they might upset Russia even more if they took place in countries that were once Moscow's satellites.

NATO has to tread a fine line as it tries to persuade Russia that it should remain on the twin tracks of economic and democratic reform.

The alliance says it alone will decide if and when to accept new members and it will not allow Russia to have a veto over its policy.

At the same time, some allies are worried that if

selected officials who played a key role in the tunnel's chequered construction history. Former British and French premiers Margaret Thatcher and Pierre Mauroy were among the dignitaries at the dinner Saturday (AFP photo)

Under the Yeltsin constitution, he has no right to veto the amnesty decision initiated by the president's nationalist and Communist opponents in the Duma.

Action aimed at re-arresting Mr. Khasbulatov and Gen. Rutskoi would sit awkwardly with a bold plea he publicly made for national reconciliation last Thursday.

In a confused situation Saturday, Prosecutor-General Alexei Kazanik resigned, saying Mr. Yeltsin was leaning on him to suspend the amnesty illegally. TASS said Mr. Yeltsin had asked Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin to rethink the amnesty.

The rebel leaders were visibly changed, but not chastened, after four months behind bars.

The slight, sallow-faced Russian Khasbulatov, who led the old parliament disbanded by Mr. Yeltsin last September, stepped through the prison gates first, his cheeks sunken but his eyes gleaming in triumph, crowds waving red flags greeted him with bear hugs of comradeship.

Then came Alexander Rutskoi, the former vice-president who styled himself president during the revolt.

Sporting a heavy beard he had grown in prison, he wore a Soviet Air Force general's uniform adorned with medals for war heroism in Afghanistan. But he looked in bad physical shape and staggered at one point.

"I was with you to the end (in October). Now the main thing is to maintain calm," he told a crowd of supporters chanting: "Rutskoi, president."

Also released from Lefortovo was retired General Albert Makashov, who organised paramilitary forces in the White House and led an attack on Ostankino Television Centre.

Officially, 147 people were killed in the October fighting

in which army tanks hammered the White House to force the submission of rebel parliamentarians inside.

Ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy did not miss the opportunity to exploit the publicity surrounding their release, turning up outside Lefortovo to tell the crowd: "Well done, guys. It's our day today."

There was no immediate indication of what plans Gen. Rutskoi and Mr. Khasbulatov had to return to political life.

Both men command some support from anti-Yeltsin conservatives. But the political landscape has changed since October and neither man could lay claim to a power base in parliament which was elected in December while they were in jail.

Gen. Rutskoi, a former air force general who was very popular before the October events, could be a strong challenger for the presidency against Mr. Yeltsin in 1996.

**Khasbulatov quits politics**

Mr. Khasbulatov said Sunday he was retiring from politics following his release from prison under an amnesty. Interfax News Agency said.

Mr. Khasbulatov, known for his abrupt changes of mood, told the agency he was "disgusted with modern politicians." In a separate report, Interfax said Mr. Khasbulatov planned a trip to his native region of Chechnya which has declared independence from Russia.

"Khasbulatov stated... that he is not going to indulge in political activities," Interfax said.

Mr. Khasbulatov, a former economics professor, said he intended to sort out his papers, adding he finished writing a book showing "the full absurdity of Russian economic reforms" on Sept. 21, 1993, the day when Mr. Yeltsin dissolved parliament.

**Smoking/No Smoking wins top French film award**

PARIS (AP) — Smoking/No Smoking, a two-part film about choices in life, took the award for best film and won in four other categories in the annual Cesar Film Awards announced Saturday night. Alain Resnais won the Best Director Award for the film, a series of plots played out by only two actors in varying roles about the choices people face in life.

Pierre Arditi won the Best Actor Cesar for his role in the film, while co-star Sabine Azema was nominated for Best Actress. She lost out however to Juliette Binoche who won for her role in Bleu (Blue), one of a trilogy about a woman who loses her husband and child in an accident. Smoking/No Smoking also won the Best Screenplay and Best Decoration Cesars. Bleu won three Cesars, including for Best Sound and Best Editing. The film, directed by Krzysztof Kieslowski, is being followed by Blanc (White) and Rouge (Red). The big disappointment







## Jordan, Oman mediators draft Yemen peace plan

SANAA (Agencies) — Military mediators from Jordan and Oman drew up a five-point plan on Sunday to halt clashes between northern and southern army units in Yemen, where at least 20 people have been killed, officials said.

They called on the opposing sides to ban new troop movements, return to their positions before the clashes, free prisoners and return the weapons seized, dismantle checkpoints and halt the media campaign against each other.

The mediators also laid down a timetable for the plan to be carried out, the officials said, without giving details.

A spokesman for the northern General People's Congress (GPC) charged Saturday that southern troops were preparing to launch a major offensive to capture the strategic town of Qaataba.

"The YSP (Yemen Socialist Party) has massed troops and heavy weapons near the former border," which divided Yemen before the north and south were united in May 1990, the spokesman said.

He charged that the YSP "seeks to trigger a full-blown war."

President Ali Abdullah Saleh's GPC — which ruled the former North Yemen — and Vice President Ali Salem

Al Beidh's YSP — which ruled the south — decided to share power upon unification, but they have not merged the armies.

Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh have been locked in a political dispute since August, when Mr. Beidh refused to take up his duties as vice president in the northern capital Sanaa, demanding major economic, political and security reforms.

A reconciliation agreement signed in Amman on Feb. 20 has failed so far to end the crisis, and at least 20 soldiers have been killed since in clashes in the southern Abyan province.

The French oil company Total has decided to suspend operations in Yemen for at least one year and recall its French employees mainly because of security risks, sources said here Saturday.

The military situation on the ground was never clear, with both sides accusing each other of massing troops and weapons and pushing the country towards all out war.

Security sources reported a flare up of fighting near the town of Modia in the south on Saturday night. They said the clashes continued on Sunday morning but did not have other details.

Diplomats say foreign oil companies in Yemen have made contingency plans in case the crisis worsens, starting with storing extra oil and gas and ending with shutting their offices.

The YSP has been reinforcing the oil region of Shabwa with tanks and missiles, oil sources in the region told Reuters in Dubai.

Yemen's economy, always weak, has been staggered by the growing tension.

On the news of the peace pact, the rial bounced up from 61 to the dollar on the free market to 55. When clashes broke out it plunged down to 71 to the dollar and was back at 61.

Mr. Beidh appeared to be trying to mend his links with Gulf Arab states, angered by Yemen's sympathy to Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

He met Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and met Oman's Sultan Qaboos, which angered Mr. Saleh who saw the talks and visits by other YSP officials to other Arab countries as challenging his authority.

U.S. ambassador Arthur Hughes shuttled between Sanaa and Aden on Friday and Saturday talking to Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh in a bid to contain the situation, the radio added.



A scene from Sunday's protest in Amman organised by Islamists, trade unions and leftist groups (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

## Amman marchers assail peace process, demand Arafat's ouster

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Nearly 4,000 people marched through the heart of Amman Sunday rejecting the 28-month-old Middle East peace process and calling for the downfall of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The peaceful protest was called to express condemnation of Friday's massacre of more than 60 Palestinians by one or more Jewish settlers at the Ibrahimi Mosque in the Israeli-occupied West Bank town of Hebron.

But it turned to a highly politicised event to register what Islamist and leftist politicians as well as union leaders asserted was a popular rejection of any negotiated peace with Israel.

"No to peace, yes to holy war," shouted the protesters, who began their march from the central bus station at Abdali and dispersed at the Hashemiyyeh Square in downtown Amman after brief speeches by leaders of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) and leftist organisations as well as heads of professional associations.

The speakers severely assailed Mr. Arafat and his

peacemaking strategy with Israel and demanded that all Arab parties, including Jordan and the PLO, withdraw immediately from the peace talks.

Police kept a tight watch over the marchers, who included around 200 veiled women, but did not interfere. No violent incidents were reported.

Banners wielded by the protesters, some of them masked and others holding aloft the Holy Koran, denounced the massacre and said: "No to surrender, no to negotiations." "Revenge, revenge, revenge," "armed struggle is our only choice," and "no for self-rule."

The marchers condemned Mr. Arafat for accepting the Sept. 13 autonomy agreement with Israel and demanded that he be ousted from the chairmanship of the PLO.

"Yes to the PLO, no to Arafat," said the protesters. Addressing the PLO chairman, they chanted: "Your day of judgement is coming."

It was the latest rally to be held in Amman following the Hebron massacre, and was higher in political intensity than any other demonstration held since Friday, save another headline protest march held in the Beqaa camp Saturday.

Earlier Sunday, a group of about 150 school students marched through the Jabal Hussein refugee camp to condemn the mosque massacre and vowing revenge.

The centrist Al Mustakbal party, led by Suleiman Arar, issued a statement on Sunday describing the Hebron killings as "a Ramadan gift by the Zionists to the Muslim and Arab people."

The massacre should serve as a reminder to those who are engaged in peace talks with Israel that "there cannot be peace and security in the region as the racist state (Israel) exists among them."

"Retribution in kind, not condemnation and statements, is the answer to this crime and other crimes committed by the Zionists against the Palestinians and Arabs... starting with (the 1948) Deir Yassin massacre and (the 1982 killings at) Sabra and Shatila and the (1968) burning of Al Aqsa Mosque," said the statement.

Jordan is observing a three-day national mourning that ends Tuesday for the victims of the massacre at the Ibrahimi Mosque and the government is also raising funds to help the families of those killed and wounded in the attack.

## Hamas renews call to Fateh, warns delegates

By Suhair Obeidat  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) Sunday renewed a call on the mainstream Fateh faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to renounce the Middle East peace process and join hands to liberate Palestine through armed struggle.

"We call upon our brothers in Fateh to join hands and escalate the intifada and holy war against the enemy," said an open letter signed by Hamas.

In a separate statement, the group, which is dominant in the occupied Gaza Strip, warned Palestinian negotiators to quit the peace talks or face unspecified consequences.

Hamas is the largest religious-oriented group in the occupied territories challenging the domination of the PLO and Fateh, which is led by Yasser Arafat, who is also chairman of the PLO.

Hamas and Fateh, at two ends of political ideology, have been locked in a power struggle in elections to various Palestinian organisations and student unions in the occupied territories.

"The (massacre in Hebron) in which hundreds of our people died confirms the righteousness of the resistance and armed struggle... and exposes the Zionists' claims that they wish to live with our people in peace," said the statement.

In its open letter, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times, Hamas urged "our brothers in Fateh... to respond to this brotherly and national call... to abort the surrendering scheme led by the Oslo men."

Hamas, while vowing to wreck the autonomy accord through escalated attacks against Israeli targets, appeared to drop its earlier stand that it would not take up arms against fellow Palestinians.

In its message addressed to the Palestinians in the occupied territories, Hamas threatened Palestinian negotiators with attacks if they do not withdraw from negotiations with Israel.

"We demand that the Oslo team announce their immediate withdrawal from the negotiations with Israel... we will not allow a handful of us (Palestinians) to continue negotiations with those murderers at the expense of the Palestinian people," said the letter.

The letter also called on the Palestinians in the occupied territories to observe a three-day general strike, escalate the intifada and carry out revenge attacks against Israeli soldiers and settlers and engage in fights with them.

"We call on our people to avenge the killing of our martyrs and consider the occupation troops and settlers as permanent targets wherever they may be," read the letter.

The letter also called for demonstrations and marches throughout the occupied territories.

It also called on the people of Hebron to protect the Ibrahimi mosque and continue praying in it.

Saleh Ra'fat, of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) Sunday urged the PLO to freeze its negotiations with Israel. He also called on Mr. Arafat not to respond to U.S. President Bill Clinton's call for a summit with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Washington.

Reports of such an invitation by Mr. Clinton were Saturday denied by a spokesman for Mr. Rabin, who said that the only invitation out of Washington was to lower-level peace negotiators to resume the talks. But other sources confirmed the invitation.

Mr. Ra'fat also called for the protection of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, the dismantling of settlements and the disarming of Jewish settlers.

Suleiman Al Najjab, member of the PLO Executive Committee, called for the suspension of the peace negotiations with Israel for the time being until they are preceded with conditions that are in line with international legitimacy.

## COLUMN

### Clinton coy on streaker

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The smile said it all. President Bill Clinton refused to answer when reporters wanted to know if he saw a streaker while on his way back to the White House after a round of golf. The man was wearing only a stocking cap and running shoes, drawing the attention of Secret Service agents. Mr. Clinton declined to answer a reporter's query, but he did smile extra wide.

### Princess Anne in Eritrea

NAIROBI (AFP) — Britain's Princess Anne arrived in Eritrea for a three-day official visit. Eritrean Radio reported in a broadcast monitored here Sunday. The radio said the princess was met at Asmara International Airport by Eritrean Foreign Minister Muhammad Sharifo.

### U.K. soldier compensated after court martial

LONDON (AFP) — A former British soldier who served in Britain's war to recapture the Falkland Islands from Argentina in 1982 has been awarded £100,000 from the Defence Ministry, in an out-of-court settlement of his claim that he was unjustly court-martialed, his lawyer said Saturday. Alexander Findlay, 32, is still suffering post-traumatic stress after fighting in the campaign with the Scots Guards, his lawyer John MacKenzie said. Mr. Findlay went berserk in an army barracks in Londonderry in 1990 during his second tour in Northern Ireland, threatening to shoot anyone who came near him. He was court-martialed, sentenced to two years in a military prison and cashiered a few months before he reached 12 years of service, which would have entitled him to a pension. But his lawyer argued that his behaviour was linked to his psychological state, and that the army should have sent him for treatment rather than punishment. Mr. Findlay saw several of his friends die in a mortar attack in the Falklands, and had to perform an emergency tracheotomy with his bayonet on a soldier who was choking to death.

### 'Thatcher auctioned gifts'

LONDON (AFP) — Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher held auctions each year at which she sold some of the gifts given her by foreign visitors, the Sunday Times reported. "Margaret Thatcher held secret annual auctions at Downing Street of some of the gifts given to her by foreign dignitaries when she was prime minister," the paper said. "Bids were accepted from staff at Number 10 for trinkets and pieces of china," the paper said, adding that proceeds of the sale "went to charity" and "those involved were under strict instructions to keep the auctions secret." Ten days ago, the magazine Tatler reported that Lady Thatcher had complained that Norma Major, wife of Prime Minister John Major had worn her favourite diamond necklace from the Downing Street collection. Tatler said Mr. Major had agreed to let his wife wear the jewels.

### Smokers have worse shoulder injuries

NEW ORLEANS, La. (R) — Shoulder injuries are worse for smokers than for non-smokers, and those who light up have more pain and less successful surgery, a report released Sunday stated. Dr. William Mallon, in a study of 57 surgery patients that was presented at the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons annual meeting, said rotator cuff tears in smokers are almost twice as large as those in nonsmokers. The rotator cuff, which provides shoulder motion and stability, consists of four muscles that reinforce the structure around the shoulder joint. Rotator cuff tears can be caused by repetitive overhead activity, a fall on an outstretched arm, or a violent pull to the arm. Symptoms include night pain, pain deep within the shoulder and gradual loss of strength.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### UAE agrees on independent status for WAM

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has approved a request from its official news agency WAM to become independent financially while remaining the mouthpiece of the government, officials said on Sunday. The federal cabinet drafting committee agreed to the request for financial and administrative autonomy at a meeting Saturday night and would present a report to the cabinet for endorsement, said Justice Minister Abdullah Tariam, who heads the committee. "The decision provides full independence for WAM financially and administratively but it will continue to reflect government views in its reporting," said WAM Director Issa Al Mazroui, who is assistant under-secretary at the Information Ministry. "The change will give WAM more flexibility in achieving its objectives and remove administrative and financial obstacles that are blocking development of its services," he told AFP. WAM was established in 1976 as a news organ of the federal government and has been under the direct supervision of the Information and Culture Ministry. It currently has around 150 employees and its Arabic and English networks cover more than 70 countries. The English service is broadcast through the U.S. News agency-United Press International (UPI).

### Iran, Pakistan start naval exercises

TEHRAN (R) — Iranian and Pakistani naval forces started 10 days of joint exercises in the Indian Ocean on Sunday, Tehran Radio reported. The manoeuvres — codenamed "Zolfagar" after the sword of the Prophet Mohammad's son-in-law Ali — include submarines and are Iran's first joint naval exercise with a foreign force since its 1979 Islamic revolution. "Naval units of both countries in four stages will practise air, surface, under surface and anti-air operations and will exchange modern techniques," the radio said. Iran's navy commander, Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani, said last week that Iranian warships had sailed for Karachi to take part in the war games which include practising "joint submarine operations and sinking of vessels." Pakistan's naval command will direct the exercise to be held in Pakistani waters. Iran has taken delivery of two or three diesel-powered Kilo-class submarines ordered from Russia at a cost of \$600 million. The order alarmed Iran's Gulf Arab neighbours who are suspicious of its regional aims.

### Sudan stops doctors going abroad

KHARTOUM (R) — Officials in Sudan are preventing medical doctors from leaving the country, a Khartoum newspaper reported on Sunday. Al Sudani Al Doulia quoted doctors as saying they were turned back from Khartoum airport and Suakin port on the Red Sea as they were about to leave by plane or ship. The Arabic daily, which is privately owned, said the doctors were not given any reason for the action except that they were told by the officials that "the country requires you people." "Thousands of Sudanese doctors have left the country in the last few years to work abroad where they have a chance of a better life. Those who cross the Red Sea and work in Saudi Arabia can expect to make about 100 times their salaries in Sudan. Al Sudani Al Doulia said the doctors asked how they were expected to survive on a salary of 6,000 Sudanese pounds or \$17 every month.

### Pro-Israeli gunmen kill four

MARIJAYOUN, Lebanon (R) — Israeli-backed militiamen killed four pro-Iranian guerrillas who attacked them in South Lebanon on Sunday, security sources said. A wounded militiaman later died of his wounds. South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia post on Suwaydah hill came under attack by guerrillas firing machineguns and anti-tank rockets, the sources said. SLA militiamen returned fire, killing four attackers, they added. One SLA militiaman was seriously wounded and flown to hospital in Israel by helicopter. He later died of his wounds. SLA militiamen manning the post also shelled the outskirts of guerrilla-held Habboush and Arab Salim villages, wounding two civilians, the sources said. The pro-Iranian Faithful Resistance claimed responsibility for the attack but did not mention its casualties. The sources had earlier said Hizbollah claimed responsibility for the attack.

### 30 Sri Lankans missing after air attack

COLOMBO (R) — At least 30 people were missing after Sri Lankan planes attacked a convoy of boats crossing a lagoon in the Tamil rebel-controlled north on Saturday night, survivors said on Sunday. They said the convoy of about 70 boats, bringing civilians from the Jaffna Peninsula, was bombed and strafed by a ground attack aircraft and two helicopters halfway across the lagoon. Passengers who escaped said one boat was missing and another reached the mainland with only the boatman aboard. No casualty figures were given but each boat usually carries about 15 people. It was the first air attack on boats crossing the lagoon since Tamil rebels overran a military base last November that controlled the lagoon separating Jaffna from the mainland. Over 600 soldiers and sailors died or went missing in the raid, the military's worst defeat in the decade-long war.

## 7 killed in 'suspicious' blaze at London cinema

LONDON (AP) — A fire swept through a small, private movie club in East London Saturday evening, killing seven people, police said.

Twenty-three casualties were taken to nearby hospitals and some with serious injuries were taken to burn units in surrounding counties, the ambulance service said.

Police Chief Superintendent Michael O'Connor said the fire was being investigated and "we are treating it as suspicious." One person died in the hospital and six were dead at the scene, he said.

When the fire brigade arrived at the building in the Smithfield Market area, four people jumped to safety and fire crews said they rescued 20.

"When we arrived, there were people jumping from windows even though we were pitching ladders to them," a fire brigade spokesman said. People who lived nearby said the theatre showed pornographic films. Police did not confirm this.

Valerie Martin, a nearby resident, said she saw two young men laughing at the blaze and gave their descriptions to the police.

"You do not laugh at a fire like this," she said.

"There were people all over the floor and they were really badly burned — their skin, their heads, their arms. It was really horrible."

"The fire started and spread really quickly. It was horrific," she said. "There were bodies all over the place and police and ambulancemen were trying to resuscitate them."

"I saw 20 people being brought out through the windows on stretchers."

The first, second and third floors were ablaze and flames were shooting out of the ground floor over the pavement when fire crews arrived, said Ken Emsley, one of the first at the scene. He said it was "the worst I have experienced in my 30 years in the service."

"All the floors and staircases were alight and the crews had to be protected by water jets." At one point, about 20 people were all scrambling to get out on to a single turntable ladder, he said.

Christopher Wood, a local resident said there were two cinemas in the building — one on the second floor and one on the third. He said it was a private club called the New City Cinema.

"Gay films are usually shown on Wednesdays and Sundays," he said. "The clientele is usually split half and half — half are straight men and half are gay."

Mr. O'Connor said the building, across from the old Smithfield wholesale meat market, had a cafe at ground level and the private movie club was upstairs.

## Shbeilat wins presidency of engineers association

By Mariam M. Shabin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Former Member of Parliament Laith Shbeilat won a resounding victory over incumbent Husni Abu Ghaida to secure the presidency of the Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) which held its elections over the weekend, association officials announced Sunday.

Mr. Shbeilat's victory, however, did not extend to the Green List, the association bloc that backed him in the direct elections of president and an executive committee. The list did not win a single seat in the committee.

Mr. Shbeilat got 3,751 votes while Mr. Abu Ghaida received 2,779 votes of the 6,600 votes cast.

Mr. Shbeilat's reentry into the public arena marks an almost unprecedented comeback for a politician who fell from grace.

In 1989, Mr. Shbeilat was elected to represent the Third District of Amman in Parliament with a record number of votes. In Parliament he proved to be highly critical of most of the policies of the governments of Mudar Badran, Taher Al Masri and Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker.

Mr. Shbeilat was found guilty of sedition against the state in 1992, after a long trial that was subject to much controversy. A royal pardon was issued for Mr. Shbeilat and thousands of other prisoners days after he was pronounced guilty. Although he nominally returned to parliamentary sessions he chose not to run for reelection in 1993 claiming he had retired from politics.

His entry into the race for JEA president, a post he held from 1988-1990, proved that Mr. Shbeilat has not written off his political ambitions. Sunday's election results dealt a severe blow to the Green List that backed Mr.



Laith Shbeilat

Shbeilat, who ran as an independent. Not one of the four candidates of the list won a seat on the nine-member council.

With the exception of Mr. Abu Ghaida, all eight candidates on the White List, dominated by pro-establishment and Muslim Brotherhood trends, swept the council seats with an average margin of 1,000 votes.

Association observers remarked the 1,000 votes, mostly of independent Islamists who usually vote White List, went to Mr. Shbeilat.

The Green List's four candidates ran for the seats reserved for civil engineers, the only category which is allotted two seats on the council, as well as electrical, mechanical and mining engineering.

The number of votes cast amount to slightly more than 50 per cent of the eligible voters — 12,000. But they only represent some 22 per cent of Jordan's 30,000 registered engineers.

"There has been some apathy in paying dues and voting," admitted election official Mansour Shemout.

"But we got the highest turnout in the association history. Our previous high had been in 1992 with 4,400 votes."

Mr. Shbeilat's election seemed to contradict the choice made by the majority of the voters for the rest of the committee, but many observers see it as logical.

"These are bad times for engineers and they don't want to antagonise the government too much at this time with a rejectionist council," said civil engineer Samir Nashashibi.

"But the rejectionist politics that Shbeilat preaches is still close to the heart of many Jordanians who, despite the bad economic situation, still feel we should say no to the Western-imposed economic conditions on the country, and that is why Shbeilat was elected," said another engineer.

The decline of the Green List had been developing gradually since the group lost control of the association's leadership and majority in 1992 to the Whites. It was its first loss in three decades. But last November's failure of left-wing and pan-Arab as well as liberal candidates to reach the Lower House of Parliament appeared to be mirrored in the JEA elections.

Mr. Shbeilat and most of the Green List won the vast majority of the votes from engineers from Jordan's southern districts.

Following are the members of the new JEA executive committee: Laith Shbeilat, (President), Azzam Huneidi, vice president, civil engineers Bashir Jaghbir and Mohammad Abu Affi, electrical engineer Abdul Fattah Abu Khayat, mechanical engineer Ahmad Kellani, mining engineer Mohammad Abu Taha, chemical engineer Jamal Abu Salem and architect Mohammad Akram Al Tal.